

## **A memorandum from your child**

*Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.*

*Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it. It lets me know where I stand.*

*Don't use force with me. It teaches me that power is all that counts. I will respond more readily to being led.*

*Don't be inconsistent. That confuses me and makes me try harder to get away with everything that I can.*

*Don't make promises; you may not be able to keep them. That will discourage my trust in you.*

*Don't fall for my provocations when I say and do things just to upset you. Then I'll try harder for more such "victories".*

*Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you". I don't mean it, but I want you to feel sorry for what you have done to me.*

*Don't make me feel smaller than I am. I will make up for it by behaving like a big shot.*

*Don't do things for me that I can do for myself. It makes me feel like a baby, and I may continue to put you in my service.*

*Don't let my "bad habits" get me a lot of your attention. It only encourages me to continue them.*

*Don't correct me in front of people. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.*

*Don't try to discuss my behaviour in the heat of a conflict. For some reason my hearing is not very good at this time and my cooperation is even worse. It is alright to take the action required, but let's not talk about it until later.*

*Don't try to preach to me. You'd be surprised how well I know what's right and wrong.*

*Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins. I have to learn to make mistakes without feeling that I am no good.*

*Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.*

*Don't demand explanations for my wrong behaviour. I really don't know why I did it.*

*Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.*

*Don't forget that I love to experiment. I learn from it, so please put up with it.*