MEMO FROM A CHILD

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

2- Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it , it makes me feel secure.

3- Don't let me form bad habits. I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.

4- Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly "big".

5- Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take notice if you talk quietly with me in private.

6- Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.

7- Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the painful way sometimes.

8- Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you". Sometimes it isn't you I hate but your power to thwart me.

9- Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention I need.

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

11- Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I would like. That is why I am not always accurate.

12- Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

13- Don't be inconsistent. That completely confuses me. and makes me lose faith in you.

14- Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.

15- Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.

16- Don't ever think that it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm towards you.

17- Don't forget that I love experimenting. I couldn't get along without it, so please put up with it.

18- Don': forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do try.

19- Don't forget that I don't thrive without lots of love and understanding, but I don't need to tell you, do I?

20- Please keep yourself fit and healthy. I need you.