

# YOUR CHILD NEEDS *YOU!*

Your child wants to grow up to be happy and healthy, but they need you to teach them how. The most important person in your child's life is you. The most important family in the world to your child is your family. Whether you're part of a traditional mom and dad family, a stepfamily, a single-parent family, or any other type of family under the rainbow, it's important to show your children that they are part of a family.

Strengthen your family by planning activities to do together. Make your own family traditions. Use phrases like "in our family" and tell your children the special stories of your family's history. Those stories are your roots. They are what makes your family unique in all the world.

Through your family, your children will learn that they belong to a much larger family: the family of humankind. Their contributions to that family will help determine the future for all of us. So your job as a parent may very well be the most important job in the world.

And if you are a caregiver or teacher of someone else's children, please know that your contributions are tremendously important, too. Though you may never see the long-term results of your work, the fact is that you improve the lives of children. That is generosity and success of a kind we rarely see in this world.

Together, parents, caregivers, and teachers help lay the foundation upon which our children will build the future.