

Love is Separateness

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,
and though they are with you, they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
for they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls.
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which
you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to
make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living
arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,
and He bends you with his might that his arrows
may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness'
for even as he loves the arrow that flies, so he loves
Also the bow that is stable.





To Encourage Autonomy

1. LET CHILDREN MAKE CHOICES.
“Are you in the mood for your grey pants today, or your red pants?”
2. SHOW RESPECT FOR A CHILD’S STRUGGLE.
“A jar can be hard to open. Sometimes it helps if you tap the side of the lid with a spoon.”
3. DON’T ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS.
“Glad to see you. Welcome home.”
4. DON’T RUSH TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.
“That’s an interesting question. What do you think?”
5. ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO USE SOURCES OUTSIDE THE HOME.
“Maybe the pet shop owner would have a suggestion.”
6. DON’T TAKE AWAY HOPE.
“Son you’re thinking of trying out for the play! That should be an experience.”