

Prayer to nurture a Loving Family

Lord, we pray for your help to form a home filled with love:
A family that is quick to forgive and seek forgiveness;
A family that prays and laughs and heals together;
A family that values others more than self,
Reconciliation more than pride,
and God's grace more than anything else. Amen.

What a Child Learns

**If a child lives with criticism,
that child learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
that child learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule,
that child learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame,
that child learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance,
that child learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement,
that child learns confidence.**

**If a child lives with praise,
that child learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
that child learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
that child learns faith.
If a child lives with approval,
that child learns self-respect.
If a child lives with
acceptance and friendship,
that child learns to
find love in the world.**

A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.
Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.
Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.
In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.