Top Ten Tips for Bringing Out the Best in a Strong-Willed Child of Any Age

1. Value my ability to see the world from a unique perspective.
   *Find ways to appreciate and make the most of my strengths, even when I annoy you.*

2. Remember, we need compelling problems to solve, not just chores to do.
   *Don’t be the “big boss.” I'll respect your authority more when you tell me the point.*

3. Ask for my input; keep me in the information loop.
   *Give me some ownership in the process and the outcome.*

4. Protect our relationship—you won’t get much from me without one.
   *Respect and value who I am, and I’ll cooperate with you most of the time.*

5. Smile at me more often.
   *Keep your sense of humor and try to smile, even when you don’t like me.*

6. Don’t let me push you around, but don’t push me around either.
   *Don’t be afraid to stand up to me; just don’t run over me.*

7. Speak to me respectfully, but firmly.
   *Use your voice wisely; it’s a powerful resource.*

8. Choose your battles—don’t sweat the small stuff.
   *Decide what’s really worth it.*

9. Give me some control over my own life and circumstances.
   *Allow me to share control without surrendering your authority.*

10. Remind me how much you love me.
    *Find subtle ways to keep reminding me your love will always be there.*

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