

# Introduction to Youth Responses - What If You Were A Teacher For A Day?

Contributed by American Youth - Grades 1st - 12th  
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It has been said that "our children are our best teachers." A child's outlook on life, whether it is the life that surrounds them or their own, is rich in simplicity. Many viewpoints are homegrown, while others are reflections of adult expressions we share with them, especially as the children grow older. As adults, how often do we follow or heed the words of wisdom that we have shared with our youth. So whether homegrown or inherited, the following perspectives can offer some value on how to approach each coming day. Every day in a person's life is important. Every day can and does offer wonderful experiences to assist us in living life more fully. In view of the turbulent economic, political and social times that are upon us, read and consider the numerous youth responses listed below. Can you remember a time when you shared some of the same views? What were you thinking or doing just prior to seeing things differently? How might they serve you now?

"If you were a teacher for a day and your students were all adults..."

1. What would be the most important thing to tell them?
2. What would you teach them?

Most Important Thing...

- Is to remember how to have fun again. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Is to be healthy. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Denver, CO
- No matter how hard things get, keep trying and don't give up. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Go for your goals and don't stop until you obtain them. &ndash; Age 14 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- The most important thing I would tell them would be how special it makes children feel to have adults play and spend time with them. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Nassau, Bahamas
- Never doubt yourself. &ndash; Age 11 &ndash; Denver, CO

- Know what you are here for. - Age 11 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Whatever you do to or for someone will come back around to you. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Life is 10% what happens, 90% how you respond&hellip;you decide your own fate. &ndash; Age 14 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- Just enjoy life. &ndash; Age 13 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- When you are old, still live your life young. &ndash; Age 12 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Remember who you are. &ndash; Age 11 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Don&rsquo;t be afraid to try something new. Always try to understand more. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Chicago, IL
- It is fun to be curious. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Dallas, TX
- You can do whatever you want as long as you don&rsquo;t jeopardize other people&rsquo;s freedoms. &ndash; Age 11 &ndash; Denver, CO
- That kids and teenagers really do want and need adults involved in their lives. &ndash; Age 14 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- It is important to cherish your children. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Be good to yourself. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Just be yourself. &ndash; Age 12 &ndash; Denver, CO
- Learn to pay attention to yourself. &ndash; Age 13 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- I would tell them that it will all be good. &ndash; Age 15, Broomfield, CO
- To remember kids have a wild imagination and you don&rsquo;t know what they will do next so don&rsquo;t get really mad at them. &ndash; Age 8 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- Make sure you listen&hellip;really listen. &ndash; Age 7 &ndash; Brunswick, GA
- Think for yourself&hellip;your thoughts matter. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- It is important to be nice to everyone. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- Be loving. Have fun. &ndash; Age 9 - Lakewood, CO
- As an adult, it is important to place yourself in a kid&rsquo;s shoes. &ndash; Age 14 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- It is really ok for grown-ups to have some fun every now and again. Start by finding your smile. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Littleton, CO

#### Teach Them...

- How to be a child again. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Denver, CO
- How to treat each other and help each other. - Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- I would teach them to love FUN. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Littleton, CO

- How to be proud of themselves. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Denver, CO
- First I would get to know them better so they could feel comfortable around me&hellip; - Age 11, Denver, CO
- I would tell them why kids act like the do and then tell them to try it themselves. &ndash; Age 12 &ndash; Denver, CO
- I would tell them that even though they have been teenagers before, they don&rsquo;t understand everything about teenagers today. &ndash; Age 14 - Norfolk, VA
- To abandon veggies and worship kids. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- That if you believe that you can do something, that if you really believe that you can, then it will happen. &ndash; Age 15 &ndash; Broomfield, CO
- How to be more child-like. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Chicago, IL
- The most important thing to teach is to be understanding. &ndash; Age 13 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- I would teach them about what I know. I would tell the adults that money isn&rsquo;t important as they seem to think. &ndash; Age 7 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- I would tell the class to watch, &ldquo;Are you smarter than a fifth grader?&rdquo; and then we would go over the answers the next day to see who got them right. &ndash; Age 10 &ndash; Aurora, CO
- From a teenager&rsquo;s point of view, I would teach them how to succeed in life. &ndash; Age 13 &ndash; Norfolk, VA
- I would show them how to be nice to others and little children. &ndash; Age 9 &ndash; Aurora, CO
- Teach them what children like to do. &ndash; Age 7 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- Show them how to fly a kite really high and everything about being and playing at the beach. &ndash; Age 7 &ndash; Brunswick, GA
- I would tell them about the imagination of a kid and how kids think differently than adults. &ndash; Age 8 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- How to support your family. &ndash; Age 8 &ndash; Littleton, CO
- I would teach them science and math because it involves hard thinking. &ndash; Age 11 &ndash; Dallas, TX