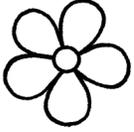


PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE: KID MAYOR EDITION



Dear Parents,

So, your child is running for Kid Mayor of your household. First, we'd like to commend you for your bravery! This is a fun, messy, and insightful exercise that will build your child's sense of independence and responsibility. It will also very likely be a bit of a trying time as you, the Presidential Parent, do your best not to step in when they inevitably run on a platform of ice cream for breakfast or forbidding broccoli. You can do this.

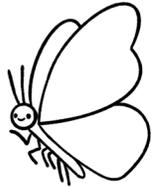


Set Boundaries, But Be Generous

You will be working closely with the delegate to create a successful term. This will likely include making some pretty big concessions regarding how you want the household to run. It's important to remember that your child only feels safe taking on this role because of the example you have set, and the faith they have in the borders and boundaries you have for them.



The President holds veto power over any legislation that proves dangerous or that will become a financial, physical, or psychological hazard. But a motion can't be removed from the table without a backup motion being introduced, so any time you shut down your little leader's idea, make every attempt to mediate a replacement that maintains the spirit of their attempt.

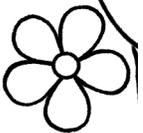


Don't Filibuster

It can be very tempting to flash the Parent card and hold your ground on trivial matters, or to keep delaying a decision until their term as Mayor is over. Of course your child is trying to take advantage of the little power you've dosed them, but they're also trying to learn very important lessons.



There are times when "because I said so" is the only answer, but it's important to squeeze every learning opportunity you can out of this project! If you have to tell your child no, explain fully why. Challenge yourself to decide if the answer really does have to be no. If your child's first campaign promise was to banish all brussels sprouts from the dining room table, it's probably ok.



Task your little lawmaker with learning why you push dark greens, and with exploring which vegetable has the nutrient density to take its place. If they try to run on a campaign of raising everyone's allowance, you can explain that the budget is the budget, and if allowances are raised, then the entertainment budget is cut. If the entertainment budget is raised the dining out budget is cut. If they have made a financial campaign promise they are determined not to budge on, let them mow the neighbor's lawn, walk dogs, or wash cars to earn the deficit.



You will obviously have to step in from time to time, but this can be a really fun way to reevaluate some of your family's habits. Maybe it would be better if someone else took over the meal plan for a while. Maybe ice cream for breakfast and cereal for dessert is a more fun way to start your day once in a while. Maybe you can cancel one of your streaming services to take a rock-climbing lesson with your family. Let yourself be pleasantly surprised!

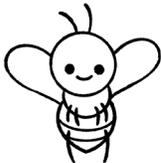


Encourage Bold Ideas

As your child's confidence in their leadership grows, so will their courage to present you with further reaching ideas. This means the exercise is working, and you are in for some creative problem solving like you've never seen! Even outlandish and unrealistic plans can be met with encouragement and enthusiasm, as you work together to apply their dreams to real-world scenarios.



There is all the time in the world for them to come to the conclusion that not everything is within their reach. Let's not have that day be today. Your child promised their constituents a unicorn. Find a pattern and use upcycled shag rugs for a mane. This is a fine time for them to learn to sew. Your Mayor promised no bedtime? Negotiate for an afternoon nap and staying up an hour later. There are solutions, and together, you'll find them!



Town Hall

Not every idea will work out as planned. It's important to hold regular Town Hall meetings to discuss, as a family, what is going well, and what could be reevaluated. Give your child time to talk through their perspective on how the changes are affecting not only their life, but how your home functions. Give them an opportunity to right the ship before you step in to explain what's going wrong.



Everyone has an equal voice during a Town Hall, but it's up to the leaders to decide how to address any issues. This is also an excellent time to award those who have shown excellent guidance during a transitional period, or who have shown ingenuity and courage in their first leadership role.



Have Fun!

Do you remember when playing house was the absolute most fun part of your day? You would rush through homework or meal time so you could hurry up and pretend to run your very own household. It's not always easy to remember how much joy it used to bring us to fold imaginary laundry, cook imaginary, mess-free meals, and to feed our dollies who never complained about what was on their plates. Giving your child the chance to appreciate the value of the work you put into your home can also remind you of just how much you really do, and just how much you could have while doing some of it.



Please keep us posted on how your child's Mayoral run is faring. Tag us in their fun legislation, or email us at Hello@Wonderbunch.Com to tell us how your family adapted this exercise for your home. Your children have our vote, and you have our respect!

-Your Wonder Bunch Team

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