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## **PARENTS HAVE WHAT KIDS NEED**

There is more to improving the quality of life than increasing its speed. Don't let modern technology and a lack of self-confidence keep you from guiding your child's life.

Erma Bombeck explains the timeless need for parent involvement:

“Get three generations together and the topic is the same—is it harder to raise children in the ‘90s than it was in the ‘40s and ‘50s? Grandmas will be the first to admit they didn't have all the shortcuts and technology mothers have today. They will regale you with how they nearly passed out from washing and bleaching diapers instead of having the convenient plastics, and how they made their own baby food when it wasn't available in jars. They had a rule for everything, and the goal of their children was to see how many they could break.

Those of us who raised kids in the ‘60s remember the rebellious years when we were at odds with our kids.

But no one prepared us for the children of the ‘90s many have digital watches, calculators, cell phones, and beepers. They can program the VCR, and they consider the computer a game. They have seen firsthand every major news event everywhere in the world, worked a microwave at age 4, and memorized the pizza parlor number at age 3.

All three generations of parents believed their kids were smarter than they were so they couldn't possibly teach them anything. **Parents sell themselves short.**

They have something children not only need, but cannot possibly get from anyone else. **Love.** Without it, kids are left without laughter, emotion, or feelings. **Stability.** They need someone to hang onto—a center, a pivot from which to conduct their lives and return to. **Values.** There is no other way kids can learn how to be made responsible for what is right and wrong without someone to teach them.

Despite the changes in environment from one generation to another, there are some things about children that transcend time. In a car they will drive you nuts singing . . . . If you have three children, they will have to be at three different ballparks on the same night at the same time. Every emergency in their lives will happen when you are in the bathroom.

There are a lot of things parents can't control. There are a lot of things they can. Raising kids in any generation is not a day at the beach, but if you spend enough time at it, you can influence them in a way you never thought possible

Read the headlines. Look around you. Watch TV. Maybe kids aren't as smart in the ‘90s [or in 2016] as you thought they were.”

Maybe they need a little help. Maybe they need your **time, love, and understanding.**