



Answering Questions Your Kids Have About Child Support



Children need and deserve an emotional connection to both parents as well as the financial support necessary to meet their daily needs. The decision about how much information to share with your child will depend on your own preferences as well as the age and maturity of the child.

■ Making Your Discussion Age Appropriate

Children preschool age to about age 10 will probably be less concerned with finances than older children. Middle school age children may be worried there might not be enough money for their extracurricular activities or the clothes they'd like to buy. Be honest, but assure them that financial issues will be dealt with as they arise. High school age children will be fairly astute about the family dynamic. Comfort their concerns about financial changes with: "We'll work things out the best we can, we'll see where we are as these expenses arise." But whatever the age level, do not criticize the other parent about late payment or nonpayment of support.

■ Talking About the Other Parent

It may be tempting to talk to your child about the child support case and other financial issues when you feel frustrated, angry or scared. While this may make you feel better, they really shouldn't be exposed to these matters. Your child has enough to deal with concerning their own feelings about the separation. Children are very aware that they come from both parents. When you put down the other parent, your child may actually feel insulted.

■ Visitation and Child Support

Visitation and child support are two separate issues. Do not limit the other parent's access to your child if child support payments are not current. If a court order is in effect granting a certain amount of visitation, you may face legal consequences if you refuse to comply. It is important to your child that he/she is able to maintain a relationship with the other parent.

*Show your child that you love and support them
no matter the circumstance!*

*The child support case is a sign that they
are loved and cared for!*

What *TO* say ...

- That the separation is NOT their fault
- That BOTH parents love them
- That it is ok to feel sad because they miss the other parent
- Tell them that both parents love them and will continue to care for them

What *NOT* to say...

- Don't discuss the financial aspect of the separation
- Don't make negative remarks about the other parent
- Don't ask your child who they love more
- Don't say, "If he loved you, he would send your support checks all the time."



**Child Support
Directors Association**

*A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children*

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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