

I Love You Enough

Some day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them:

I love you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

I love you enough to insist that you save money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.

I love you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

I love you enough to make you take the Milky Way back to the store (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it".

I love you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.

I love you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.

I love you enough to let you assume responsibilities for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

But most of all, I love you enough to say NO when I knew you would hate me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I am glad I won them. Because in the end you won, too.