

# Create Childhood Memories That Last



The mission of Gulf Coast Kids's House is to facilitate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect and promote child abuse prevention awareness through community education. Gulf Coast Kid's House opened in April 2004. Since that time they have assisted more than 2,000 children and their non-offending family members annually and provided more than 10,000 services annually. Located at 3401 N. 12th Avenue in the Marilyn Kapner Levin Center for Children's Advocacy and Child Abuse Prevention, the center provides tours and child abuse prevention educational programs. Contact Gulf Coast Kid's House at 595-5800.

## TWENTY GREAT THINGS TO SAY TO CHILDREN

1. I love you! There is nothing that will make me stop loving you. Nothing you could do or say or think will ever change that.
2. You are amazing! I look at you with wonder! Not just at what you can do, but who you are. There is no one like you. No one!
3. It's all right to cry. People cry for all kinds of reasons: when they are hurt, sad, or worried; when they are angry, afraid, or lonely. Or sometimes when they're happy! Big people cry too. I do.
4. You've made a mistake. People make mistakes. I do. Is it something we can fix? What can we do? You can start fresh. I know you are sorry. I forgive you.
5. You did the right thing to try. That was scary or hard. Even though it wasn't easy, you did it. I am proud of you; you should be too.
6. I'm sorry. Forgive me. I made a mistake.
7. You can change your mind. It's good to decide, but it is also fine to change.
8. What a great idea! You were really thinking! How did you come up with that? Tell me more. Your mind is clever!
9. That was kind. You did something helpful and thoughtful for that person. That must make you feel good inside. Thank you!
10. I have a surprise for you, even though it's not your birthday. It's for no reason at all. Just a surprise, a little one, but a surprise.
11. I can wait. We have time. You don't have to hurry this time.
12. What would you like to do? It's your turn to pick. You have great ideas. It's important to follow your special interests.
13. Tell me about it. I'd like to hear more. And then what happened? I'll listen.
14. I'm right here. I won't leave without saying good-bye. I am watching you. I am listening to you.
15. Please and Thank You. These are important words. If I forget to use them, will you remind me?
16. I missed you. I think about you when we are not together!
17. Just try this new food. A little bit. One taste. You might like it.
18. I'll help you. I heard you call me, here I am. How can I help you? If we both work together, we can get this done. I know you can do it by yourself, but I'm glad to help since you asked.
19. What do you wish for? Even if it's not yet time for birthday candles and we don't have a wishbone, it's still fun to hear about what you wish for, hope for, and dream about.
20. If you ever need to talk to me about anything, I'll be listening. I promise!

## United Way @ Work



In partnership to prevent child abuse



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United Way @ Work is produced by United Way of Escambia County as a service to our valued partners. United Way @ Work aims to inform residents of valuable services from our nonprofit partners that improve our overall quality of life.

For more information, visit our Web site at [www.unitedwayescambia.org](http://www.unitedwayescambia.org)

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Need more information on this or other topics related to health and human services in Northwest Florida? Call First Call For Help at 595-5905.