

It's not too late for us, and we have wonderful examples, all around us. While on vacation last week, I had the privilege of hanging out with several of my nieces and nephews, and was reminded of the pure joy that life is meant to be. Here's just a few things they helped me remember:

SMILE and GIGGLE without thinking. Just let it happen. Let it out!

PAY ATTENTION to everyone around you. They are a treasure.

HUG whenever the urge arises. It'll make at least one other person smile and remember their worth.

Say I LOVE YOU often. You can never say it too much.

Know that YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.

BE AMAZED by nature. It is miraculous.

LISTEN to others, especially when they ask you to do something.

GET OVER IT, when something doesn't go your way, and quickly. There's something better to do now.

If you are tired and crabby, REMOVE yourself from others until you are willing to smile again.

NOTHING is more important than being with your family.

It's important to say PLEASE and THANK YOU.

GET TO KNOW people you don't know.

ASK a lot of questions so you can LEARN constantly. There's so much to learn!

Take the time to PRAY.

EVERY DAY is a gift, full of surprises and wonderful new things. Get up early to get a jump on it.

Doing extra little things from the heart, to make OTHERS feel important makes YOU feel great, too.

PLAY and BE SILLY whenever you get the chance. Laughter is contagious.

REST when you are tired so you can give life everything you've got.

SHARE everything—especially your time. It keeps everyone happy, and it's much more fun!

COMMUNICATE constantly so that everyone understands each other.

SING and DANCE at least three times a day and encourage other to join in, even if you have to tug on them a little.

EXPRESS how you feel, no matter what the emotion. It makes it easier for everyone to understand.

BE NICE! There's just no reason to be mean...ever. But if you are, you should get instant punishment to give you time to think, set you straight, and remind you not to do it again.

FLEXIBILITY keeps everybody happy when life's surprises happen. And they will--constantly. Move on to the next great thing!

To get anything, all you need to do is ASK nicely.

Let's remember the basics and take the wonderful examples from the fearless, intelligent, open hearts of any children you come across, and whatever you do, don't try to tell them they're "wrong." That's where WE went terribly wrong in the first place. Never underestimate what you can learn...from anyone. Kids have much to teach us.:) "Mary Anne"

## RISE ABOVE THE SH\*\*!

## Down-to-earth thinking from Wisconsin

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-Mary Anne, Author RISE ABOVE THE SH\*\*!

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