

College is hard, parents make it better

Encouraging words from those that love you most is the best remedy for a bad day or a long week. Sometimes it may be difficult to explain everything that college entails but when students know that their family is proud of their accomplishments conquering the world seems a lot easier! Encourage your students to apply for scholarships, internships, studying abroad opportunities. When students know that they have the support of their family, applying for these will not seem so daunting.

Students Miss Home

Even though your student may not always tell you, they miss you. While students often pretend they are all grown up, college is the time when parents are needed the most. Because of all the changes that occur during the college years, parents' knowledge and experience becomes more valuable than ever. Share them!

Surprises make the distance seem not so bad

Your student may be attending college in a different city or maybe even in another state. This can sometimes make it difficult to stay connected. During these times, the U.S. Postal Service becomes coveted. Receiving a box of goodies or a letter is a great feeling especially when it is a surprise!

Your kids DO listen

While your student may not always eat vegetables while they're in college, they do value all that you have taught them. The morals you have instilled in them will not disappear. While they will explore new ways of thinking, they will probably still go to church, volunteer in the community, and do their part to better the environment around them.

Especially after the first year of college students' schedules become extremely busy. College students have to balance school with a job, an internship, study time, eating, extracurricular activities, friends, and family. This can sometimes be overwhelming and difficult at times. This may also mean that your student does not call home very much. Do not worry; they are trying to learn to balance everything. Things will get better!

There is **NEVER** enough time...

Your kids will grow

College is a period of transformation. You will realize that your kids are no longer kids and will have deeper, more mature conversations with them. Embrace this change. This is one of the best parts about college; you can now share all of your experiences with your adult kids.

Sometimes you just need to be a kid!

While growth and change is great, it can be stressful, especially toward the end of college. Junior and senior year fly by as the real world is just around the corner. Constant reminders about getting jobs or applying to graduate school can make the last two years less enjoyable. While these are very important things to be aware of, try not to center every conversation about adult topics. Sometimes talking about their favorite ice cream is just what your student needs!