

Parenting a child with ADHD can be both rewarding and challenging, and it's easy to feel pressure from society, family, or even yourself about what it means to be a "good" parent. These expectations can sometimes lead to feelings of self-doubt, especially when dealing with the unique needs of a child with ADHD. **This worksheet is designed to help you redefine what "good" parenting looks like for you, based on your personal values, your child's specific needs, and the dynamics of your family.** By focusing on what works best for you and your child, you can create a more realistic and supportive approach to parenting.

STEP 1: Identifying Expectations

Start by reflecting on some of the expectations you've held about being a "good" parent to a child with ADHD. These might be internal (self-imposed) or external (from family, friends, or society).

Reflection Questions:

- What are some things you believe a "good" parent must always do when raising a child with ADHD?
- Where did these beliefs come from (e.g., your upbringing, advice from others, media, etc.)?
- Which of these expectations feel overwhelming, given the unique needs of your ADHD child?

Write down 2-3 expectations you've identified in your own life:





STEP 2: Reflect on Your Values

To redefine what "good" parenting looks like for your child with ADHD, it's important to think about what truly matters most to you as a parent. Your values help guide how you respond to your child's unique needs. Read through the values below and identify which ones are most important for guiding your approach to parenting.

Kindness Independence		Honesty	Resilience	
I want to be a parent who models compassion and empathy. I can show kindness through my actions, even when I'm upset, by treating my child with respect, listening when they have concerns, and helping them see the value of kindness in their interactions.	I want to encourage my child to make their own decisions and develop problem-solving skills. I will allow my child to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from them, rather than stepping in to solve every problem for them.	l want to be open and truthful with my child so they feel safe being honest with me. I'll model honesty by being transparent about my own feelings and mistakes, and by encouraging open dialogue, even when the truth is difficult to share.	I want to help my child develop emotional resilience and the ability to handle life's challenges. Instead of shielding my child from all adversity, I'll support them through difficult times, helping them build coping skills and learn how to bounce back after setbacks.	
Courage	Curiosity	Patience	Gratitude	
I want to encourage my child to be brave and stand up for what they believe is right. I'll model courage by facing my own fears, discussing tough situations openly, and	I want to nurture my child's natural curiosity and encourage them to explore the world. I'll provide opportunities for my child to explore their	I want to model patience and teach my child the importance of taking time to understand situations. I'll practice patience in my own responses, showing my	I want to raise a child who appreciates what they have and expresses gratitude. I'll make a habit of practicing gratitude, like reflecting on positive moments at	

I'll model courage by facing my own fears, discussing tough situations openly, and encouraging my child to express their feelings and opinions, even when they go against the norm.

l'll provide opportunities for my child to explore their interests. I'll encourage questions, exploration, and creativity in their learning process. I'll practice patience in my own responses, showing my child how to approach frustration with calmness and understanding, even when things don't go as planned. I'll make a habit of practicing gratitude, like reflecting on positive moments at the end of each day, and encourage my child to recognize the good things in their life.

Respect

I want to teach my child the importance of respecting themselves and others.

l'll model respect in my interactions with others, especially when we disagree. l'll also show respect for my child's autonomy and boundaries, helping them understand the importance of mutual respect.

Self-Compassion

I want to teach my child to be kind to themselves and not expect perfection.

I'll model self-compassion by acknowledging my own mistakes and showing my child that it's okay to not be perfect. I'll encourage them to treat themselves with kindness rather than self-criticism.

Flexibility

I want to be adaptable and open to change, especially as my child grows and their needs evolve.

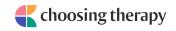
I'll adjust my expectations, knowing that every stage of my child's development requires different approaches. I won't rigidly adhere to societal timelines or milestones.

Balance

I want to teach my child that it's important to balance their responsibilities and their well-being.

I'll demonstrate the importance of work-life balance by prioritizing both family time and self-care. I'll teach my child that it's okay to rest and that productivity isn't the only measure of success.



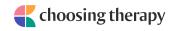


Reflection Questions:

- What values do you want to instill in your children (e.g., kindness, independence, honesty)?
- What kind of parent do you want to be based on your values?
- Instead of feeling pressure to meet other people's ideas of "good" parenting, how can you make parenting choices that align with your values?

List 5-6 core values that you want to guide your parenting:				





STEP 3: Define Your Version of "Good" Parenting

Using the expectations you've released and the values you've identified, begin to craft your own definition of what it means to be a "good" parent to your child with ADHD. Focus on the qualities that align with your values and what's achievable for you and your family.

Reflection Questions:

- What does being a "good" parent to your ADHD child look like in your day-to-day life?
- How can you focus on progress, not perfection, as a parent?

Write your new definition of a "good" parent in as much detail as possible:						
	A good parent is someone who					

