

# "Children Learn What They Live"

by Dorothy Law Nolte

**If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.**

**If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.**

**If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.**

**If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.**

**If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.**

**If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.**

**If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.**

**If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.**

**If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.**

**If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.**

**If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.**

**If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.**

**If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.**

**If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.**

**If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.**

**If children live with fairness, they learn justice.**

**If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.**

**If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.**

**If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.**

Excerpted from the book [CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE](#)

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The poem "Children Learn What They Live"

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