



Need to talk? Call 1-800- RUNAWAY

# Runaway Handbook



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# Parent Runaway Prevention Tips

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## Suggestions for Parents to Consider

1. Pay attention – when your children are talking with you, listen.
  - a. Do not just nod your head while you are watching television or reading the paper, or using your computer.
  - b. Don't just pretend to listen to them
  - c. Kids know the difference
2. Give Respect – Acknowledge and support your children's struggle to grow to maturity.
3. Understand – Try to sympathize with what your kids are going through.
  - a. Look at life – at least occasionally – from their point of view.
  - b. Remember when you were their age; your ideas seemed to make sense to you.
4. Do not lecture – All children hate to be lectured to, especially teenagers.
  - a. However, all kids respond to clear information and direction, most of all when they know that the questions they ask will be answered.
5. Do not Label – The throwing around of useless labels will only confuse the real issues that you wish to address.
6. Discuss Feelings – Talk about what you, as a parent, feel and what you need.
  - a. Allow your child to talk about his or her feelings too.
7. Create Responsibility – Give your children choices, not orders.
  - a. Help them to understand the consequences of their actions.
8. Positive Praise – Describe your child's positive and negative behavior, and how it affects others.
  - a. Be specific, and give praise to reward good behavior.
    - i. Do this as least as often, if not more so, than you criticize behavior which you do not like.
9. Stop Hassling – Asking your child too many questions often shuts off information.
  - a. Give them the opportunity to volunteer their thoughts and feelings, while you show a sincere interest, without probing.
10. Do not Always Give the Answers – You want your children to be able to find their own answers or solutions to problems.
  - a. You can help this by not giving them the answers all the time.
11. Use Team Work – Work together with your child to lay out the problems and find a mutually agreeable solution.
12. The Key Issue – You MUST tell each of your children that you will always love the child, NO MATTER WHAT.

## 10 Family Communication Tips

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1. Set aside time to talk.
2. Do not expect your family to read your mind.
3. Be specific and realistic about your expectations and requests.
4. Have patience! Good communication takes time and effort
5. Brainstorm ideas before making a final decision.
6. Ask for input from family members.
7. Write things down; make a list of changes you want to see.
8. Be willing to compromise.
9. Do fun things together.
10. Use community resources when you need help.



## Three Universal Truths and Four Aces

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Imagine examining, over seven years, the best research from the fields of psychology, education, sociology, recreation, criminology, social work, and medicine then synthesizing all the knowledge into three Universal Truths, which, if adopted, could support the success of all children without exception.

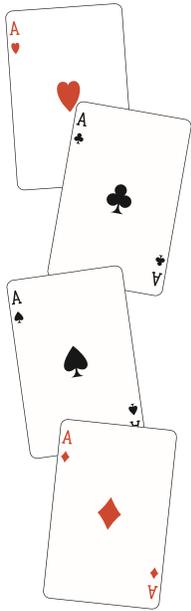
These overall findings lead to **Kids at Hope**, an evidenced based, strategic-cultural model, which reverses the “youth at risk” paradigm by establishing a culture that engages an entire school, youth organization, and/or community.

- **Children succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed no exceptions.**
- **Children succeed when they have meaningful and sustainable relationships with caring adults.**
- **Children succeed when they can articulate their future in four domains: Home and Family; education and Career; Community and service; and Hobbies and Recreation.**

### Four Aces

Every adult holds these four aces. Your ace of heart belongs to your own children. Give it to them each day that you are privileged to have them in your home. However, your ace of clubs, spades and diamonds can be given to every child you know and meet if only you will take the time to deal them out. You will discover that your aces are magical, for the more times you give them away, the more times they will reappear in your hand to re-deal again the next day to another child who just needs to know that the world cares.

**Kids at Hope** hopes that you will come recognize powerful aces you hold in your hand and that you will give them to the children in your world with love a belief in their tomorrow.



**Ace of Hearts - Anchor/Parent:** Responsible for child's physical and emotional wellbeing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in an unconditional loving way.

**Ace of Clubs - Other Caring Adult:** The more the merrier - successful people surround themselves with significant, positive adults- many clusters of adults can be the other positive person in a child's life. All adults, regardless of job, status, income, or position have this ace. Give this ace to lots of children. Let them know they live in a society that values them.

**Ace of Spades - High Expectations:** Always pointing upwards - sky is the limit! Raise the high bar for all children, not just those who are advantaged by economics, athletic ability, or scholastic achievement. Successful people state that had someone in their life who believed in them at times more than they believed in themselves. These adults are known as "Treasure Hunters." Give this ace to as many children as you can. Let them know you expect them to do well.

**Ace of Diamonds - Opportunities to Succeed:** Success breeds success - the more successful experiences a child has, the greater the chances of forming a pattern of success. As if the four sides of a diamond, there are four ways to help a child feel successful - belonging to something positive, feeling useful, feeling competent, feeling empowered. Let children know that winning may not happen every day, but success can happen if children are given this ace.

## Deliverables:

- Children become much more optimistic
- Children not only understand the concept of hope, they can model it
- Children learn and practice the power and self-fulfilling prophecy (*belief system*) of positive self talk (*Kids at Hope Pledge*)
- Children learn about personal strength based inventory and practice it
- Children's academic and emotional achievement matures
- Adults learn and practice the power of the self-fulfilling prophecy to support a child's achievement
- Adults learn and practice how to measure a child's potential, not just their behavior (*Kids at Hope Report Card*)
- Adults learn and practice how to instill hope in every child without exception (*Passport to the Future*)
- Adults learn and practice the types of meaningful and sustainable relationships needed by children - Aces

# Parent help your Child Identify His / Her Aces

 <p><b>Ace of Hearts</b> Anchor/Parent</p> <p>Responsible for a child's physical and emotional well being 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in an unconditional loving way.</p> <p>Give this ace to your own children-- remind them how important they are.</p> <p>Only an Anchor Parent can give this Ace</p> 	 <p><b>Ace of Clubs</b> Other Caring Adults</p> <p><i>All three criteria must be met to check this box</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You have known the child/youth for at least eight weeks.</li> <li>2. You can describe at least three very positive characteristics/skills or talents which you believe this child possesses.</li> <li>3. You believe this child feels comfortable asking for your assistance.</li> </ol> 	 <p><b>Ace of Spades</b> High Expectations</p> <p><i>All four criteria must be met to check this box</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You have known this child/youth for at least eight weeks.</li> <li>2. You feel you believe in this child/youth sometimes even more than he/she believes in himself</li> <li>3. You sense that you are one of the "go to" adults this child may contact if they wish to discuss a problem/issue beyond an academic subject.</li> <li>4. You have a very good sense as to this child's/youth's experiences during the non school hours (i.e. a sense of their home life/community life).</li> </ol> 	 <p><b>Ace of Diamonds</b> Opportunities to Succeed</p> <p><i>All three criteria must be met to check this box</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You have given this child opportunities to succeed and have acknowledged their success.</li> <li>2. When this child is with you they feel a sense of achievement, are valued and appreciated.</li> <li>3. This child succeeds in your classroom/program or organization.</li> </ol> 
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My Ace(s) of Hearts is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

My Ace(s) of Clubs is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

My Ace(s) of Spaces is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

My Ace(s) of Diamonds is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Kid at Hope and Treasure Hunter

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**(Child) Take the following and rewrite it in your own words:**

I am a Kid at Hope. I am talented, smart, and capable of success. I have dreams for the future, and I will climb to reach those goals and dreams every day. All Kids are Capable of Success, No Exceptions!

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**(Parent) Take the following and rewrite it in your own words:**

As an adult and a Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills, and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe all children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!

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# About Me

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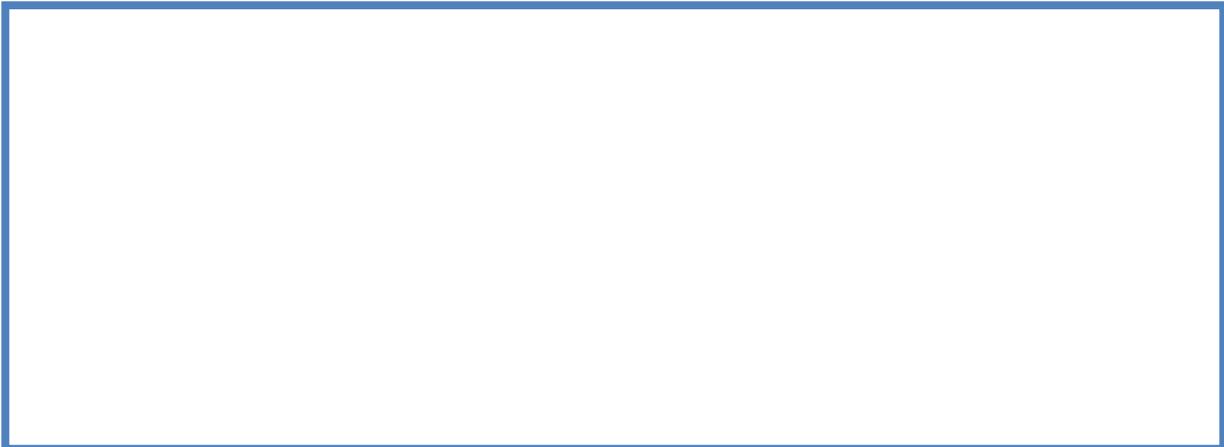
## 4 Destination Points

There are 4 destination points in which you will live your life, they include.

1. Home and Family
2. Education and Career
3. Community and Service
4. Hobbies and Recreation

In order to be successful at each Destination Point, your parents, teachers, leaders and other important adults in your life will help you discover the different skills, talents, characteristics and intelligences you will need for a future full of hope, optimism, and success.

*Draw / sketch a picture below that shows you as successful at one of the destination points.*



## My talents and skills

My talents and skills in the **Home and Family** Destination Point are:

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How I use these talents and skills today:

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How I will use these talents and skills as a grown up:

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My talents and skills in the **Education and Career** Destination Point are:

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How I use these talents and skills today:

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How I will use these talents and skills as a grown up:

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My talents and skills in the **Community and Service** Destination Point are:

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How I use these talents and skills today:

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How I will use these talents and skills as a grown up:

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My talents and skills in the **Education and Career** Destination Point are:

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How I use these talents and skills today:

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How I will use these talents and skills as a grown up:

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My talents and skills in the **Community and Service** Destination Point are:

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How I use these talents and skills today:

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# Resources

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## CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

### PROGRAMS, SERVICES, RESOURCES

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year 1 2, while countless others contemplate leaving their home. Reasons range from issues at home and problems with peers, to abuse and challenges at school. Regardless of why they run, the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) is here to help. As the go-to resource for runaway, homeless, throwaway and at-risk youth and their families, NRS, through its free and confidential 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and 1800RUNAWAY.org online services, provides support and access to resources 24 hours a day.

### CRISIS INTERVENTION:

NRS operates a confidential crisis 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and 1800RUNAWAY.org online services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our texting option and online services; live chat, crisis emails, bulletin board, provide more ways for teens in crisis to connect to help. Our frontline team of staff and volunteers receive 40+ hours of training to provide non-judgmental, non-sectarian, and non-directive support, empowering callers to develop a plan of action to improve their situation.

### INFORMATION AND REFERRALS:

A nation-wide database of nearly 10,000 youth and family resources provides countless Options for callers to access a myriad of services, such as counseling, shelter services, alcohol/drug treatment and child protective services.

### CONFERENCE CALLS:

When youth request assistance contacting their family or an agency that can help, NRS facilitates a conference call. The frontline team member remains on the line with the youth, advocating, as needed, on their behalf.

### HOME FREE:

In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc., NRS helps reunite runaway youth with their families or extended families through a free bus ticket home. Over 15,000 youth have been reunited with families through the Home Free Program since 1995.

Call  
**1-800-RUNAWAY**

Click  
**1800RUNAWAY.org**

Text  
**66008**



Male  
Harbor House (HH):  
call 718-0442 or 718-2146

Female  
Providence Place (PP):  
call 299-5126 or 718-0442

24 Hour Hotline for HH and PP: (928) 235-5549