

## Reflections of a Parent

I gave you life,  
But I cannot live it for you.  
I can give you directions,  
But I cannot be there to lead you.  
I can take you to church,  
But I cannot make you believe.  
I can teach you right from wrong,  
But I cannot always decide for you  
I can buy you beautiful clothes,  
But I cannot make you beautiful inside.  
I can offer you advice,  
But I cannot accept it for you.  
I can give you love,  
But I cannot force it upon you.  
I can teach you to share,  
But I cannot make you unselfish.  
I can teach you respect,  
But I cannot force you to show honor.  
I can advise you about friends,  
But I cannot choose them for you.  
I can advise you about sex,  
But I cannot keep you pure.  
I can tell you about alcohol and drugs,  
But I cannot say "No" for you.  
I can tell you about lofty goals,  
But I cannot achieve them for you.  
I can teach you about kindness,  
But I cannot force you to be gracious.  
I can pray for you,  
But I cannot make you walk with God.  
I can tell you how to live,  
But I cannot give you eternal life.  
I can love you with unconditional love all my life...  
And I will.  
(Author Unknown)