

Dad, Here are Your Lines

I often say that men read lines and women read between lines.

When it comes to daughters and dads, **daughters are constantly reading between the lines in terms of their interactions (or lack of) with their dads.** Whether there is a lot of interaction, little interaction, no interaction, reactive interaction, humorous interaction, or loving interaction, every single girl is interpreting every single interaction between she and her dad...good or bad.

She is in a continual process of sorting out who she is and where she's going in life. And her dad's reflection back to her about herself helps her understand and know herself better.

Let me put it a bit more clearly...in a way that is stated *on the lines*:

If you, Dad, laugh at her jokes, she tells herself,	"I'm funny."
If you discuss politics and world events with her, she tells herself,	"I'm interesting."
If you draw her out, asking her opinion about a fact, theory or line of thought, she tells herself,	"I'm knowledgeable."
If you ask for her help to fix something, she tells herself,	"I'm capable."
If you ask her to help you brainstorm about buying a present for mom, she tells herself,	"I'm clever."
If you applaud her for her achievements in sports, grades, music or work, she tells herself,	"I'm competent."
If you enthusiastically affirm her artistic endeavors, she tells herself,	"I'm creative."
If you celebrate her academic prowess, she tells herself,	"I'm smart."
If you actively listen to her while she is talking, she tells herself,	"I'm engaging."
If you teach her to say "no" and then respect her boundaries, she tells herself,	"I'm strong."
If you light up and smile upon seeing her when she walks in the room, she tells herself,	"I'm delightful."
If you respect her opinions about topics ranging from literature to spiritual things, she tells herself,	"I'm wise."
If you treat her with kindness, understanding, tenderness, and love, she tells herself,	"I'm worthy."

And on it goes. There is no end to the impact on a daughter from the messages her dad gives her. To sum up, the bottom line is this:

Head interactions rest on the lines (predictable, factual, informative, content-driven)

Heart interactions rest between the lines (intuitive, connected, emotional, sensitive, heartfelt)

The clearer a dad's positive messages are to his daughter, the less reading between the lines she will need to do. **She will thrive as she knows and feels that she is delighted in by her father.**

Why is this? Because when a girl feels her dad's heart turned toward her she believes there is nothing she can't do because her father knows best. She then is free to be all she was created to be!