

## 10 STEP-PARENTING TIPS

1. Allow for individual differences in family members in adjusting to the stepfamily.
2. Recognize the importance played by both your children and your new spouse.
3. Model a healthy relationship with your current spouse for your kids and stepchildren.
4. Develop family rituals for both custodial and non-custodial children.
5. Have regular family meetings to facilitate discussion.
6. Build in opportunities for individual time with both children and step children.
7. Be consistent with both discipline and love. Accept that merely supporting the biological parent in his or her decision-making may be necessary for a while.
8. Don't force a relationship with your stepchildren.
9. Work towards building a parenting coalition.
10. Seek assistance for your family or child if necessary.

### Resources

#### *Internet*

[www.bonusfamilies.com](http://www.bonusfamilies.com)

[www.saafamilies.org](http://www.saafamilies.org) – Website of Stepfamily Association of America

[www.stepfamily.net](http://www.stepfamily.net)

#### *Books*

Visher, EB, & Visher, JS. (1991). *How to Win as a Stepfamily*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Ziegahn, SJ. (2001). *Seven Steps to Bonding With Your Stepchild*.