***Children Learn What They Live***

***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 be 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 fail in themselves and in those about them.***

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

***Dorothy Law Nolte***

***January 12, 1924 – November 6, 2005***

[***https://childrenlearnwhattheylive.com/***](https://childrenlearnwhattheylive.com/)

***This is the original poem not the ones on Etsy. The ones on Etsy are not the original poem.***

***At one point someone change the last line to “If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.” I feel it is incorrect to guarantee love or encourage the seeking of love in the world. Love comes from within. A loving person generates love, and it flows from one person to another. Love is not a treasure or commodity to be found.[[1]](#endnote-1)***

1. Dorothy Law Nolte and Rachel Harris *Children Learn What They Live Parenting To Inspire Values, (*New York, Workman Publishing [↑](#endnote-ref-1)