

Zizi—a brief list of what I learned from my mom about being an awesome parent

We are both so lucky we knew Dupey. As you know, she was my mom. And she was an amazing mom. An amazing, present, loving, cool, generous, and fun parent. Even when I was a kid growing up, I knew I was learning a lot from my mom, your Dupey, about how to be an awesome parent.

Here's a list of a few things I learned from her that I promise to do as your parent, as your Daddy.

-I will welcome your friends into our house and talk with them and learn about all the stuff they love. I will try to make our house as much of a super fun place as Dupey made me and Susie's house growing up. If one of your friends is feeling shy at a party, I'll let them hang out in the kitchen with me, like Dupey would do with some of my shy friends.

-I will take you to audition for children's chorus and encourage you and hang out in hallway outside the audition room even if your singing voice is compromised like mine was when I was 12 and the likelihood of you actually making the chorus is slim to none (though I have a lot of evidence already that I won't need to worry about the quality of your singing voice, beautiful as it is)

-I will take you to see plays and buy you cheesecake afterward so we can talk about the play or whatever else you want to talk about

-I will embrace whoever you love

-I will ask you to play me your favorite song and sit with you for as long as you want to while we listen to them and let you tell me all about each song and why you love it so much

And I hope if I do all these things, you will know how much I love you and how much I care about you and your world, just like Dupey made me feel.