The Five Love Languages of Children
By Gary Chapman & Ross Campbell

Physical Touch
Words of Affirmation
Quality Time
Gifts
Acts of Service
Five Love Languages Website for Resources and Assessment
http://www.5lovelanguages.com/learn-the-languages/the-five-love-languages/

I’m screaming L-O-V-E, but they don’t hear me!!!

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Tips for Parents of Children ages 5 to 8

So many parents wonder about their child's love language, and admittedly, determining the love language of a young child requires some educated guesswork. Why? Because young children can't yet verbalize their love language. Therefore, the online assessment might not reflect an accurate reading of their primary love language. In light of this, for children ages 5 to 8 years old, you might try the following exercise instead.

Ask him or her to draw or call out some ways parents love their children. You should try not to guide their drawings or answers, limit their responses, or require more responses than what he or she is prepared to give at the time you ask.

Depending on the child's attention span and the time of day, you may get many answers, or you may get very few. If it seems like slow going, then you may want to secretly explore the subject of love with your child for a week or so until you can deduce what he or she perceives as love. You may find yourself reading books or watching programs with your child and asking the question, “How do you know that mommy or daddy loves that little boy or little girl?” Or you may intentionally experiment by expressing love in each of the 5 ways over a week's period of time.

This will be a subjective measure, but the combination of all these suggestions—studying your child's answers or drawings, listening to their answers about other parents and children, and "measuring" their response to your expression of each of the five love languages—should be enough to help you accurately assess your child's primary love language. If you are lucky enough to catch your child in a talkative or expressive mood, you may be able to get him or her to identify several ways parents show love. You'll be looking for a theme or a repetition in their answers, and from this, you can accurately determine your child's love language.

Tips for Parents of Children ages 9 to 12

By the time a child is 9 years old, he or she is better able to identify and express his or her feelings about love than when he or she was younger. Parents still have to keep in mind that children this age have a limited attention for and limited interest in such things as helping you determine their love language. The following online "game" should help you in your research.

Tell your child you would like help solving "The Love Language Mystery Game." Explain that you need him or her to look at a list of "clues" and that these clues are comments that parents sometimes make to their children. Your child will see a set of 20 clue boxes, each with two comments. He or she must pick one of the two comments in each clue box based on which comment they like better. Explain that at the end of all the clues, you and your child will see their results and solve the mystery. If your child asks what the "mystery" is or what it is about, you can simply explain that it's a game in which parents are trying to learn what makes kids happy or what they like to hear their parents say.

To give this a game-like effect, you should secretly write on a piece of paper what you think your child’s love language is (words, touch, time, service, gifts). Do not let your child see your guess but tell him or her that you have written down your guess and will find out at the end of the game if you guessed right. After your child has received their results at the end of the "game," reveal your guess and tell your child if you guessed correctly.

This activity will have been little more than a game to your child to see if he or she got the same answer to the "mystery" that you got. He or she will have little clue that you're using this information to further confirm or clarify your guess about his or her love language. Because children expect games to end in a "reward," tell your child at the end of the "mystery solving" that, whether or not you guys ended up with the same answer, you'll celebrate by doing something fun together (i.e., eating a favorite snack, watching a movie, playing a game of your child's choosing, etc.).
**Physical Touch** is one of love’s strongest voices. It shows “I love you.”

All children need to be touched by significant adults such as mom, dad, grandparents, and teachers.

For children who understand this love language, physical touch will communicate love more deeply than words, presents, or spending time with them.

Examples: hugs, kisses, reading a story on mom’s lap, pats on the back, wrestling, high five

**Words of Affirmation** communicate love because the words are powerful.

A child reaps the benefits of affirming words for a lifetime.

Conversely, cutting words can hurt a child’s self-esteem and cast doubts about their abilities (tone of voice, gentleness of mood, ambiance of care).

Words of affection, endearment, praise, encouragement, giving positive guidance say “I love you”.

**Quality Time** is focused attention—your undivided attention.

When a child’s love tank is empty and attention is the only thing that will fill it, that child will go to almost any length to get what she needs. Even negative behavior is better than no attention.

Quality Time includes time with EACH child, positive eye contact, share thoughts and feelings, quality conversations. When reading stories, talk about how the child feels, kids today don’t know how to express their feelings, especially anger. This can lead to drug use, sexual activity, attitude and behavior.

**Gifts:** the most meaningful gifts become symbols of love.

**The other love languages must be given along with the gift to keep the emotional tank full.**

Giving and receiving are both important to the child.

A true gift is not payment for services but an expression of love given freely by the donor.

Examples: gift from trip, favorite collectors/theme item

**Acts of Service** show love by helping the child with everything like cooking them meals, providing clothing, or working on a project together. This love language is both physically and emotionally demanding. Parenting is a service-oriented vocation. Not only servicing your children but your spouse as well. In serving your children, the main motive is doing what’s best while trying to fill their love tanks.

Helping them do things they cannot yet do by themselves. In turn, teaching our children to serve themselves and others. Helping with homework, sewing buttons back on clothing, making costumes.