

Carolyn Hax Quotes

*People, Thinking, Children, Baby, Kids, Mean, Parent, Way, Giving, Mind, Want,
Needs, Support, Lying, Talking, Home, Winning, Skills, Different, Stress*

There's nothing wrong with being happy somewhere, even if it's the little pond you grew up in, as long as you are in fact comfortable vs. bored.

~Carolyn Hax

Relationships are complicated, but happiness in a relationship isn't: It's just wanting exactly what you have. Wanting something else is dispiriting.

~Carolyn Hax

I do crosswords when I have time to kill somewhere, and am 100 percent successful on filling in the spots I get stuck on - after I close up, do something else, and then go back to it.

~Carolyn Hax

Minimizing exposure to miserable people is nothing short of a life strategy.

~Carolyn Hax

No matter what else comes, your courage will be your companion for life.

~Carolyn Hax

It's hard to send your baby off on a plane without you, though that's less reasonable, because sending him off in a car is statistically a bigger risk.

~Carolyn Hax

You can't make people like you under the best of circumstances, and you certainly can't make them like you while you're actively badgering them on what you perceive to be their failures of conscience.

~Carolyn Hax

When people get more frustrated by their indecision than by the

situation that prompted it, clarity often follows.

~Carolyn Hax

Instead of talking at each other about the non-business-related contact, talk to each other about your concerns about marriage. Listen a lot, too.

~Carolyn Hax

You don't want someone who can't tell the difference between having a different opinion and dismissing your opinion.

~Carolyn Hax

When in doubt, respond to what you witness, not what you hear secondhand.

~Carolyn Hax

The most reliable ways to make oneself miserable are attempting to change people and not attempting to change circumstances.

~Carolyn Hax

Almost no one can take on an entire future in one step, much less while reeling emotionally.

~Carolyn Hax

Separation is where you see if it works better with the adults in two different homes.

~Carolyn Hax

I'm sure there are people who can toggle quickly from all-in caregiving to structured socializing, but I can't think of any offhand.

~Carolyn Hax

When you fail to see something, that doesn't mean I'm hiding it.

~Carolyn Hax

You can't make someone agree with you, not even when you're 100 percent sure you're right.

~Carolyn Hax

I think a person who arranges the event and orders the food also picks up the check - even the birthday person, even when people at the table insist on paying for the birthday person.

~Carolyn Hax

People who make babies surrender their right to behave like them.

~Carolyn Hax

Apparently you have ample proof from experience that you're not going to stop world evil by debating your in-laws into submission, so it's okay to choose not to try.

~Carolyn Hax

Waiting for someone to propose to you only passes the "Really, it's tradition!" sniff test when both of you think it's the man's job to propose and both of you think that's awesome.

~Carolyn Hax

A lot of support gets withheld out of fear of awkwardness and misspeaking.

~Carolyn Hax

If you are being shuffled around, then you should feel shuffled around.

~Carolyn Hax

Once given, a gift is yours to use, store or dispose of as you see fit.

~Carolyn Hax

Unfortunately, I think the expectation is that birthday girls don't pay.

~Carolyn Hax

First group impressions can mask a lot of individual variations in the members.

~Carolyn Hax

There is a difference between your parents' not reporting to you everything they do and keeping secrets from you.

~Carolyn Hax

I have no quarrel with people who lack the skill or temperament to care for small children.

~Carolyn Hax

You don't want to be with someone who is already not getting from you what he needs emotionally.

~Carolyn Hax

I believe in innocence until there's proof of guilt and all that.

~Carolyn Hax

I think we'd all hate to be the one who gets declared undateable by one's entire grad-school population based on a couple of told and retold stories.

~Carolyn Hax

Separating is not divorcing. Please keep that in mind. It is, instead, the second step in seeing if there's a better way to manage your family.

~Carolyn Hax

I'm not a big fan of the white lie.

~Carolyn Hax

Being highly invested and preoccupied by an emotionally consuming mission tends to steal resources from other aspects of your emotional life.

~Carolyn Hax

There's nothing like a good family when you're really up a tree.

~Carolyn Hax

Make sure you have legal cover for what you're doing.

~Carolyn Hax

You need to make plans for your future, so plan your own future.

~Carolyn Hax

It's probably good for your body and brain to get moving occasionally.

~Carolyn Hax

For some people, the better route for finding like-minded parents is just to get out of your house with your baby and frequent baby-friendly places.

~Carolyn Hax

It takes awareness that it's not only not a bad thing to let others do things their own way, it is in fact an improvement. It makes life richer and more interesting.

~Carolyn Hax

Moving is hard. Staying is easy. Logistically speaking, at least. And this is true whether you're doing or undoing something.

~Carolyn Hax

All of us assign different values to things, and not all of those values are going to line up with others'.

~Carolyn Hax

Sometimes the pain outweighs the good things.

~Carolyn Hax

Awkwardness is when there's a risk of a perception gap between what you mean and what you appear to mean.

~Carolyn Hax

We all make deals with ourselves when it comes to the difficult people in our lives.

~Carolyn Hax

Bodies and minds need breaks or the work suffers, this has been proven and re-proven to the point where we don't even need to post links to support it.

~Carolyn Hax

One way to make tough decisions is to take incremental steps that don't commit you to anything yet.

~Carolyn Hax

It's okay to forgive yourself immediately and for good.

~Carolyn Hax

Attractions are things we all should be good at saying no to, because our Department of Attraction is arguably the least reliable and productive office in our entire brain.

~Carolyn Hax

If you're not sure what you want, then hold back from making plans or responding to invitations until you have a chance to think about it.

~Carolyn Hax

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