



## **12 Things The Negro Must Do For Himself (Nannie Helen Burroughs, 1928) – (1)**

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### **12 Things We Should Teach Our Children (Burroughs Rephrased, 2019)**

- 1. We Should Teach Our Children To Put First Things First. The First Things Are: Education; Development of Character Traits; A Trade and Home Ownership.**
- 2. We Should Teach Our Children To Not Expect Things To Be Given To Them And To Take Personal Responsibility And Accountability For Things They Can Do For Themselves.**
- 3. We Should Teach Our Children To Keep Themselves, Their Children And Their Homes Clean And Make The Surroundings In Which They Live Comfortable And Attractive.**
- 4. We Should Teach Our Children To Dress Appropriately For Work And For Leisure.**
- 5. We Should Teach Our Children To Make Their Religion An Everyday Practice And Not Just A Sunday-Go-To-Meeting Emotional Affair.**
- 6. We Should Teach Our Children To Learn, As A Minimum, The Basic Elements Required For Good Citizenship And To Help Others To Do The Same.**
- 7. We Should Teach Our Children To Not Blame Others For Their Failures, i.e., Charging Them Up To Their “Color” And To White People’s Attitude.**
- 8. We Should Teach Our Children To Avoid Taking On Bad Job Habits, e.g., Tardiness and Absenteeism, Loafing, Loud Talking, Carelessness, etc. Just Plain Bad Habits.**
- 9. We Should Teach Our Children To Respect Others By Conducting Themselves Properly and Respectfully In Public Places.**
- 10. We Should Teach Our Children How To Operate A Business For Anyone Who Wants Their Product - Not Just For People Of Their Race.**
- 11. We Should Teach Our Children To Understand The Value And Importance Of HUMILITY.**
- 12. We Should Teach Our Children To Always Remember Their Friends.**

(1): Google to see detailed discussion of each. Burroughs was balanced in her views, as she also wrote “12 Things White Folks Must Stop Doing” However, she was more concerned with Blacks recognizing their full potential and accomplishing things under their control and influence.