

Marriage & Family

A Positive Approach to In-Laws

- A. Remember that parents will need concern and attention. Parents may fear rejection by the new son-in-law or daughter-in-law.
- B. Adopt a positive view of your in-laws. This will help you concentrate on good things and minimize problems.
- C. Respect your in-laws as family members of the one you love. Remember, they love your spouse, and he/she loves them. Never compete with your in-laws for your spouse's love. Try to become a welcome part of that family.
- D. Share with your mate the responsibility for maintaining contacts with both families. Share in writing letters, calling, sending gifts, and planning visits, holidays, and reunions. These efforts help build family acceptance.
- E. Be careful of directing any anger you may feel toward your spouse toward his or her family. Confront your own problems with honesty and open communication.
- F. Avoid comparing your spouse's family to your own. Comparisons can lead to defensiveness, rebuttals, unnecessary arguments, and harsh feelings.
- G. Treat both families fairly and equally.

Material comes from: "Marriage Your First Year," Mississippi State University Extension, Information Sheet 1307.