
Text: [Proverbs 22:6](#) and more

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Title: "Teaching Important Skills that Kids Must Know"

Introduction:

Types of parents:

1. Absent parents, who are not around the kids much.
2. Parents who allow their spouse to do most of the parenting.
3. Parents who just co-exist in the house, but not really parenting. They are just there, except when they get irritated at the kids.
4. Parents who want their kids to do well in life, and they look for potential problems, and then ways to improve them so they can do well in life.

Parenting Styles:

1. Too harsh, too picky.
2. Too lenient.
3. Inconsistent. One day what they do is okay, the next day it's wrong what they did.
4. Balanced in discipline, loving, helpful & constantly looks for things that could hinder their future, but uses timing and proper words, to help point it out. They are truly helpful.

To be a great parent, the focus is not on making sure your kids like you. The main approval you need from them is for them to know you really want to help them be ready to succeed in life. You mainly have their best interest in mind, whether they believe you at the time, or not.

As a parent, you have to really make this a part of your mindset. You do not want to miss things that show bad patterns of thinking. You are there to be observant, then to try to help. BUT, you are also not there to nit-pick every worry you have about them.

Some bible verses about training children:

[Proverbs 22:6](#) (NKJV)

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

[Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#) (NIV)

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your

strength.

⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

⁷ **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.**

⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (*Verses 4-6, and verses 8 and 9 show that parents should be setting the example*)

Ephesians 6:4 (AMP)

⁴ Fathers, do not irritate *and* provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training *and* discipline and the counsel *and* admonition of the Lord.

Other verses about childrearing: [Proverbs 13:24](#); [Proverbs 29:17](#); [Proverbs 19:18](#);

A lot of the skills you teach are Relationship skills that children need to learn:

Every parent must be the example to their children. Whatever issues you have, there is a high chance the kids will have the same issue. Even if the kids do not develop the same issues as you, they are still going to see your issues, and then lose respect for you. This is why you have to focus on learning and growing on your own.

In the Christian world, the bible is full of verses about growing and changing. It is a huge emphasis behind what it means to believe in God and walk through life with God. If you live what the bible says YOU WILL grow and become a better person.

Before I mention these, I want to speak to us who already have grown children, out on their own. You cannot teach in the same way as if they were still at home. You have to switch your role to one of a counselor or adviser. You listen to them, occasionally point out something that helped you when facing similar situations. Or, just mention how your thinking is on that topic. You are careful in trying to tell them what to do.

1. Being an unselfish person who cares about others

Whether they have a tendency to be a loner or not, they have to understand that people are part of life. Even for an unsaved person, it is just common sense that they have to, at least, care somewhat. You need help from others, they have to work jobs with others, if they are in a customer type of job they have to talk to people, hopefully they will get married some day. We need to treat them right just because it is the right thing to do. People are part of life.

For the Christian, God commands us to care about others. It is the 2nd greatest command-

ment. We are to be unselfish people who truly care about others.

2. Showing respect to others

This starts with the parents. The bible is very clear in [Ephesians 6:1-3](#):

[Ephesians 6:1-3](#) (AMP) (it's also mentioned in [Colossians 3:20-21](#))

¹ CHILDREN, OBEY your parents in the Lord [as His representatives], for this is just and right.

² **Honor** (esteem and value as precious) **your father and your mother**—this is the first commandment with a promise— (cost of raising a child to age 18 - \$297,000)

³ That all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.

Respecting others will normally result in you getting respect back. One person once said "Respect is like a boomerang, it will come back to you."

If it does not, that says more about the disrespectful person than it does about you.

The bible has MANY verses about showing respect to others, toward parents, & especially toward people in the churcha.

3. A proper "world-view."

A lot of what parents should be teaching their kids is giving them a proper way of looking at the world. What that means is how to look at other people, how to look at their own attitudes, how to look at responsibility, work, etc. And, even how to get what you want in life through your own efforts, instead of expecting it from others.

Illustration:

As a kid, my parents raised me in the church. I can remember some church services when I was as little as 6, or so. I can also remember being an usher at that age along with my brother and 2 other kids my age, one of which was Dana's older brother, DeWayne.

I knew there were good and bad people. But, I didn't have any other category of person in my mind. It was pretty much one or the other. And, often I thought that a lot of bad people somehow just needed some hope from a good person to help turn their life around. What I didn't realize was there were a lot of bad people who saw my goodness as a chance to take advantage of me. And, I also didn't realize there were some good people who would someday turn against you. My limited understanding caused me to trust everybody. Then, later on in life, I experienced people I highly trusted, and I was good to them, trying to burn me in some way. It was more devastating to me because I never expected that would happen. My "world-view" was inaccurate.

Understanding that there are people with bad attitudes is important in developing a proper

world-view. Also, understanding that there is a rare amount of people in this world who will never turn against you as long as you do not try to burn them. Expecting people, even some professing christian people, to never turn on you is probably a mistake.

God prepared me for the ministry by allowing me to be a policeman for 16 years. I adjusted my World-View a lot during those years. But, even when I finally started pastoring there was still so much more to learn. I still had some of my World-View that thought that

people in the church would never gossip, back-stab, or say, or do, things to try to hurt me, or other people in the church. So, once again, I had to change my World-View, to correct it to what was real. **I concluded that there are MANY solid christians who truly try to treat people right, but they are somewhat rare.** My World-View did adjust in one other way, and that is "By far, I find more christians I can truly trust than non-christians." I also learned I am going to do the right thing, regardless of the back-stabbers. I will be a better person than them.

This is part of proper parenting, teaching your children a proper World-View. Helping them to see that they are going to have friends who are messed up, and those are going to lead them down a bad path in life. (It can become Peer pressure for them)

God and Satan should be a part of that world-view. They represent good and evil.

God wants us to be a good person, to care about others, to not be prideful, to be good people. But, in this world there are people who do mean things. Some of them are going through hard times for whatever reason, and then take those attitudes out on other people.

But, then there are others who are manipulators, users, and have bad purposes. Do not let evil people make you bitter to the point you become like they are.

Then, there are the ones who hurt you the most. They treat you good for awhile, or you treated them good, and all is going well until someday they turn on you. That is life. Be thankful for the true good ones, and still do the right thing with the others.

4. How to socialize

Socializing with people shows you care about people. People will usually respond well when you care enough to ask questions that show interest in their lives. We were made to need at least some others in our lives. Teach your kids they need at least some people.

Socializing involves asking questions to others to show interest in them, and it also involves sharing your own interests. If it is done right, both people have equal time to talk.

5. How to handle anger, frustration, and difficult people.

Kids have to be taught that they are going to get frustrated, or fully angry, at other people at some time in their life. They also have to be taught they are going to be in situations where they have to deal with difficult people, who are a constant pain to deal with.

There is a proper way of handling these things, and an improper way of handling them.

We do not use revenge. We try to be kind if we can, but we also try to be the kind of person that we are not going to run over. We can be firm without anger, although a tougher approach is sometimes going to have to happen.

6. Setting Boundaries without attitude

The counseling word "boundaries" means you try to have good relationships with other people, treat them right, but also you do not allow yourself to be manipulated by others, "used" by others, or to make it easier for others to keep their same irresponsible ways. On the last one, Counselors call that "enabling" others to stay like they are.

Boundaries also means you will not put yourself in situations that are unhealthy for you, whether that be physically unhealthy, emotionally unhealthy, or the other person(s) do not think about life or others in a proper manner. In other words, you do not hang around people who are going to just make your lives frustrating.

For an unsaved person, they have to guess when to draw (or set) boundaries. It is a guess that they could easily be wrong about. But, for the Christian, they can pray and allow God to show them step-by-step what to do, or say, as they move toward setting boundaries. God knows exactly when you will need to get tough. Walk with God and He will show you how to handle it.

Example:

I will give you an example for me. I am not going to hang around people who are trying to constantly find fault with me. I will draw (or set) boundaries with that. I worded this point as **"Setting Boundaries without attitude."** How I would apply that is I am going to try to not be hateful with it. I will probably just first start withdrawing some from them. No need for hateful words. Then, if they say something to me, I will try to answer with a "matter of fact" type of statement while trying not to condemn. I may say something like "I don't hate anybody. I'm not mad at anybody. I am just not going to put myself in an environment where people think they have a right to judge my like, and who are always talking bad about me."

Kids have to be taught that if they are bullied, or made fun of, or gossiped about, whoever

is doing it is the one with the problem. The kids need to be taught to not allow such nonsense to destroy their view of themselves, or cause them to get depressed, or overly angry.

If kids are taught about God, and they are trying to live their life for God, they will learn they can turn these attackers over to God in their prayers. They will also learn to develop good feelings about themselves in what I call **God-esteem**. They know God loves them, and they also know as they live right for God, they will keep increasing their good feelings about themselves. The stupidity of the world cannot wreck their God-Esteem.

(or God-fidence)

Proverbs 22:3 (NIV)

³ A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

You're helping your children to stand up against things like:

Peer pressure

Resisting unfair judging by immature people

You are also teaching your children to:

Mind their own business, unless it is to legitimately help someone, or pray for someone.

1 Timothy 5:13 (NIV)

¹³ Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

7. How to "reason" properly, and also how to see through the words people use when they are trying to get you to believe they are right.

Psychologists say that children's brains go through a slow process of being able to critique things. For example, the younger they are, the less you try to teach them certain things. But, somewhere around age 12 or 13 their brain should be moving into the ability to criticize, or analyze better and better. This would be a good time to really help them to see how people try to defend their crazy way of thinking. At that age, if you want some good examples for discussion, talk about what is going on today with politics. Try to help them see why people say things the way they say things, even though they are wrong. There are literally bunches of discussions you could have with them that would teach them how to see through the things people say, that at first, look like good points.

Jesus taught that "truth" was God's view on something. Teach them how to see truth & lies.

Then, a lot of skills you teach your children are about how they think towards themselves:

8. Responsibility and hard work

For the Christian we are taught to work hard in life. Laziness is not a part of what it means to be a Christian.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might,

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

9. Confidence is very important, but over confidence is not a good trait.

You will get more respect in this world if you have at least some confidence. But, this has to be balanced to where you are never overly confident to where it is prideful. That is not a good trait. The bible is very clear that confidence is in God helping us to be good at what He assigns for us to do, but we are always to balance that with humility.

10. Being a good person

"Goodness" is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. ([Galatians 5:22](#)) What that means is if you are truly saved, and trying to live right for God, you will be a really good person. A good person does not use people, or try to deceive people. They do not hide themselves. They are genuine. They live for God, and that is who comes through their lives. They will never turn against you as far as to try to harm you. They are respectful to others. We are a good person regardless of the idiots in the world. I call it "doing the right thing."

Summary

As a parent, your own growth will give your children a better chance to grow, too. You cannot teach what you do not know. You cannot even see what all to correct in your kids if you are not learning from life yourself.

Whatever you refuse to grow on, chances are high your kids will also fail on. Or, we could also say that whatever resentments you have, the kids will learn those same resentments, or at least have a tendency to not trust people.

You know what? Every one of these things we talked about for children are things that I believe should be in all of our lives if we are truly trying your best to learn from God, and live for God. It's all just exactly how God wants us to think and act. Teach your kids to walk with God while you walk with God and you are going to raise children who are solid in this world. In essence,

Dad and Mom, you are multiplying God and yourself through your kids. Your lives helped the kids lives, and the combination made the world a better place.

CLOSING PRAYER LEE CONNER