

Children Pre-School *Howard Hendricks*

Intro:

- A. The first 12 years of a child's life almost determines who he or she will be.
- B. The second most important time in a child's life is adolescence.
 - 1. There is a cause effect relationship between what a parent does and what a child does.
 - 2. A parent cannot neglect this

I.) There are three ways of communicating with a child.

A. By attitude.

- 1. How you feel about things will communicate to your child.
- 2. This is distressing to counselors.
- 3. Many couples suffer from protracted adolescence.
- 4. In marriage they continue working out their own hang-ups.
 - a. A woman may be hostile toward life.
 - b. She infects her children with a negative view of life.

B. By example.

- 1. Mostly when we are least aware of it.
- 2. You cannot fool children.
- 3. If a woman is unhappy with a husband the child knows it.
- 4. Our greatest sex education is not what we say but how we treat our spouse.

C. By relationship.

- 1. A child's most important relationship is with his or her parents.
- 2. Parents need to build this relationship.

3. Spend time building this relationship.
4. Competence as a parent is directly proportional to the age of the child.
 - a. In the first 12 years a parent can do no wrong.
 - b. during adolescence the parent loses it with the child.
 - c. If we're not careful the parent will spoil the child to gain their approval.
 - d. A sassy child, however, needs to learn to be independence.
 - e. It is a process of growing up.

II.) Principles with working with pre-schoolers.

A. Teach your child responsibility.

1. Maybe it's just to pick up the morning newspaper.
 - a. Growth comes by responsibility.
 - b. Evangelical churches suffer because children operate on the basis of conformity to another's system.
 - c. When he goes to a Christian school he rebels.
 - d. In the real world he cannot function.

B. Provide a joyful atmosphere.

1. Is your home fun or a chore?
2. I can tell if a home is conducive to child rearing by its atmosphere.
3. Are people relaxed or fearful at home?
4. What people remember most about their home is interesting.
 - a. Some only want to forget their homes.
 - b. Some want to talk about their homes.
 - c. My kids remember wrestling in the living room with dad.

d. My wife didn't like wrestling in the living room.

e. The secret of speaking is enjoying it.

f. The secret of parenting is enjoyment.

1. If you enjoy it so will your children.

2. If you don't enjoy it neither will they.

C. Spend time with children.

1. Some things bring regrets but spending time with children will never bring regrets.

2. I only regret not spending more time with my children.

3. Mothers need to be at home when children walk in the door after school.

4. Fathers spend 7 and a half minutes a week with children.

5. Quality is more important than quantity.

a. If you're not interested in your child they will know it.

b. Wait till you have undistracted time to spend with your child.

6. Relationships are more important than décor in home building.

D. Love your child's father.

1. Wives respect the role of the dad.

2. Sarcasm is deadly.

3. In some homes we have mothers and assistant mothers.

4. Father images are needed in American homes.

5. Mothers need to become the president of dad's fan club.

6. I am experiencing some good times with my son who is involved in ministry.

a. My son said he remembers mom as my greatest support.

- b. He cannot remember her feeling sorry for herself because I was often gone.
- c. Many kids resent their dad's ministry involvement.
- d. Moms communicate negatively or positively to their kids.
- e. Kids will unconsciously resent ministry.

E. Allow your child sufficient developmental roles.

1. We need to develop creativity.
2. Christians can be boring.
3. We need a freedom of fear.
4. Breaking a vase is not the end of the world.
5. We had fine china at marriage but with four children we had to decide how to handle the china.
 - a. We have one remaining dish.
 - b. A greater causality would be to not allow the breakage.
6. A woman of six told her oldest child of her inexperience in raising a teenager yet assured her she loved her and had her best interests at heart.
 - a. Communicating love is more than preparing meals.
 - b. Only adults appreciate that kind of love.
 - c. Children need to hear affirmation even in the midst of mistakes.
 - d. I learned to communicate with my kids from my wife.
 - e. Teenagers hang on to adults that take interest in them.
 - f. My wife cheered them on at football games, etc.
 - g. Communicate on practical levels.

F. Pray for them and yourself.

1. I work with people with delinquent kids who would cut off their right arm to have those kids back.

2. In some cases the state commits kids to institutions.

3. Parents would give everything for their kids.

4. Ministers can succeed in ministry yet fail as parents.

5. Two suggestions.

a. Learn to relax in the Lord.

1. We think we are to train children.

2. God trains adults through their kids.

b.. There will be failure in child rearing.

1. My kid failed chemistry and lied about it.

2. This provided me an opportunity for me to love him unconditionally.

3. My daughter nearly died in a car accident last night.

i. There is nothing for us to do but pray.

ii. To God be the glory.

II.) Prayer.

A. Father we thank you for what you are teaching us.

B. The courses are difficult and the tuition is high.

C. Thank you for these parents who desire to be competent in child rearing.

D. Let the priority of our homes be your purpose.

E. For Christ's sake we ask this. Amen.