

Questions Parents Ask About Rearing Children, Part 2

James Dobson

I. Introduction.

II. Bed wetting late in childhood can be caused by physiological problems, sleep problems or emotional stress.

- A. Parents should not punish a child for wetting the bed or any involuntary act.
- B. Wee-alert is a device that can help train a child. This has to do with reflex-training.
- C. A parent should maintain a positive attitude.

III. Temper tantrum. It is important not to let manipulation succeed.

IV. The hand should be an object of love. Use other instruments for discipline to separate the two.

V. Controlling television.

- A. Television has the power to destroy Christian values.
- B. Limit what they watch, determine limits and let kids play a role in determining what they watch.
- C. Use a system to help children pick and choose what they watch. Be flexible what the children watch.

VI. Handling adoption.

- A. Begin telling the adopted child that they are adopted before they know the meaning so that they are not surprised later. Create a story that helps them understand what it means in love.
- B. Celebrate two birthdays—one for the adoption and one for the real birthday. This counteracts emotional advantage that other children might have.
- C. Tell positive adoption stories.
- D. Forget bringing up adoption once it is understood. Let it come up naturally.
- E. Never lie.

VII. The current pressure to connect adopted children to biological parents is dangerous.

VIII. Unsupervised and un-chaperoned dates.

- A. This should be a process.
- B. Single dating should not be plunged into.
- C. The plan should be made known.

IX. Parents who have become Christians late into their children's childhood.

- A. All parents have regrets.
- B. Go to the Lord asking him to make something out of meager efforts.

Applications questions:

1. How can one control television when it is even more pervasive than when Dobson originally gave this talk?

2. What principles from controlling television can be applied to internet usage? Explain.

3. Which principle for speaking about adoption stood out to you the most? What struck you about it?
