

Highlights on Raising Children Ages 1 to 12

We are placing our children on the altar.

We are worshipping them instead of training them.

We are NOT consistent.

We yell or scream instead of taking the time to discipline.

We get angry and yell from ages 1 to 6, then we try to start discipline ages 6 to 12, and finally we try to train a teenager.

We start late and end up behind the curve.

How do we get started right?

Therefore, we must ask ourselves what responsibility that God has given to us?

We are going to focus on Ages 1 to 6 → Keys are **Discipline and Obedience**

And Ages 6 to 12 → Keys are **Training and Responsibility**

*** (Handout #2, *Stages of Life*)

1. Examples in Scripture:

There are many poor examples in the Scriptures: David, Eli and Samuel (all of these were godly men and leaders and poor fathers!) 1 Samuel 1 to 3

2. Discipline and Training is much more than “teaching” or just “telling”.

It is hard work.

Proverbs 22:15

*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*
NASU

Proverbs 13:24

*He who withholds his rod hates his son,
But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

Proverbs 23:13-14

*Do not hold back discipline from the child,
Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.
You shall strike him with the rod
And rescue his soul from Sheol.*

Proverbs 29:15

*The rod and reproof give wisdom,
But a child who gets his own way brings shame to
his mother.*

Hebrews 12:11

*All discipline for the moment seems not to be
joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been
trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful
fruit of righteousness.*

Colossians 3:21

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that
they will not lose heart.*

If we as parents do not discipline our children, then the extended family will have to do it, or the school system, or the military, or law enforcement, or federal prison, or even God Himself. The longer the discipline is delayed, then the worst it will be.

Determining Factors for Discipline during ages 1 to 6

Disrespect (Temper)
Disobedience (Temptation, I Peter 3:11)
Dishonesty (Tongue, I Peter 3:10)

As a child grows his relationships with others will expand. Disrespect for those in one area will tend to be transferred to the next area.

Parents, Family, God, Teachers, Friends, Self, and Government

*** (Handout #3. *Discipline of Children*; Handout #4. *Ten Basic Steps of Correction*)

Ephesians 6:1-4 Basis for discipline, the Father is responsible

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 We are commanded to teach our children, not an option

Discipline requires effort, time, and consistency.

Young people want rules and to know their limits.

Too many rules are bad, as there were only Ten Commandments.

Reaction to Rules Reflects need for Principles

Rules can only be given after Principles are internalized

Psalms 19 The law of the Lord (principles) converts the soul

The statutes (practical guides to apply principles) rejoice the heart

Major problem is that parents are **not** united. **The father has the responsibility for training, although it may go through the mother**

Proverbs 6: 20, 23 Father's command, and mother's laws

Instruction: True instruction enables a child to see life situations from God's point of view. It also provides him with sufficient information to successfully perform specific tasks.

The degree to which he is able to do this will determine his ability to develop mature attitudes, meaningful goals, and successful relationships.

3. How is a home built? By wisdom and understanding.

Proverbs 24:3-4

*By wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;
And by knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.*

Chuck Swindoll

"It takes time to learn how to do it well. A family picture represents lives, being influenced by us, and our thumb print is on them forever. They pick up our ideals, values, our habits, our expressions, our lifestyle, and our convictions. It takes a long time to learn how to do it right, doesn't it?"

Howard Hendricks

"Good children don't emerge by accident"

Gordon McDonald

"Success in one area of life does NOT guarantee effectiveness as a father at home."

Hendricks, "NO amount of personal or professional success will compensate for parental bungling."

*** (Handout #6 Susanna Wesley's Rules of Order)

4. Husband / Wife Relationship is Key

- The Child needs to see the Dad's affection for their mom. (Ephesians 5:25)
- Kids can not ignore the tension between the parents, breeds insecurity.

5. The Child's #1 need is Unconditional love, Corinthians 13:4-7

- We can show our love by actions, words, eye contact, physical contact, and discipline.
- **Approachability**- Most destructive BUSY signals: "Not now", "Wait until your Dad finishes", "Ask your mother", "Dad's awfully tired right now"

*** (Handout #1. *That Little Fellow's Dad*)

6. Our Spiritual Life

A father can not impart what he does not know. Therefore, get serious about your WALK with God and your kids will notice the difference in your life.

***(*Handout #5. To My Parents from Your Child*)

7. Work and Finances

Train your children how to work, how to handle money, and share with them the financial goals of the family. Help them to understand tradeoffs of saving and giving and investing and future benefits.

***(*Handout #7. You and Your Child*)

8. Time is Short

You only have 12 years to build relationships, set an example, and to communicate your attitudes. Then the teenage years begin.

- Get their attention
- Keep it simple. Do not give too many commands at once.
- Do they really understand what you want and expect?

9. Natural inclination opposes basic principles

Proverbs 22:15 and Proverbs 14:12

Bad	Good
a. Seeking Approval (Act and look like others)	a. Self Acceptancel (Ephesians 3:20)
b. Independence (Out from under authority)	b. Chain of Command (Colossians 3:20; Romans 13:1,2)
c. Gain Admiration (Cover up faults)	c. Clear Conscience (James 5:16; Proverbs18:12)
d. Greatness (Above others)	d. Yield Rights (Matthew 20:26, 27)
e. Prosperity (Hold on to it)	c. Give it away (Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6)
f. Enjoy Life (Satisfy Desires)	f. Die to desires (Psalm 37:4)

10. Communication to the total person

a. To the spirit of the child

Eventually he will be able to take care of his:
physical, emotional, intellectual, and volitional needs

A child understands your spirit before he understands your words.

b. To the mind of the child

Know his frame of reference.

What ideas influence his decision?
What do certain words and phrases mean to him?
What does he think he needs?
What does he really need?

Learn how to arouse his curiosity for essential information.

Jesus used parables and questions (Proverbs 15:2).

c. To physical needs

Two basic needs: food and clothing (I Timothy 6:8)
Distinguish needs from wants.

That Little Fellow's Dad
by Bill Gaither

You know, I may never be as clever as my neighbor down the street.
I may never be as wealthy as some other men that I meet.

I may never have the glory that some other men have had.
But you know one thing... I've just got to be successful as that little boy's dad.

There are certain dreams that I cherish, that I'd like to see come true.
And there are things I'd like to accomplish before my working time is through

But the task my heart is set on...is to guide that little lad
Make myself successful as that little fellow's dad.

Oh, I may never come to glory, and I may never gather gold,
And men may count me as a failure when my business life is told,

But if he who follows after shall be manly...then I'll be glad,
Because I know I've been successful as that little fellow's dad.

It's the one job that I dream of; it's the task I think of most.
For if I fail that little fellow, I have nothing else to boast.

For the wealth and fame I'd gather, all my fortune would be sad,
If I fail to be successful as that little fellow's dad.

Seven Stages of Life

1) Foundation Stage (ages birth to age 6)

- "What to do"
 - Focus: Discipline
 - Key: Obedience
- a) Attentiveness – to others, conscience and the Holy Spirit (Acts 24:16; Romans 13:15)
 - b) **Obedience** - learning limitations (Ephesians 6:1; Hebrews 11:8; Proverbs 19:19)
 - c) Contentment – learning to entertain self (Philippians 4:11; I Timothy 6:6)
 - d) Neatness (I Corinthians. 14:40)
 - e) Reverence (Psalms 2:11; Hebrews 11:28)
 - f) Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)
 - g) Gratefulness (Psalms 100:4; I Corinthians. 15:57; Ephesians 5:20; I Thessalonians. 5: 18)
 - h) Faith (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 2:8; Mark 11:22)
 - i) Security (John 10: 28, 29)
 - j) Meekness - "Yielding his rights over toys" (Matthew 5)
 - k) Cautiousness (Proverbs 14:16)

Two Major Motivations: 1) Fear of Punishment and 2) Desire for Praise!!!

Other Key Notes: Give Teaching causally at meals

2. Training Stage (Ages 6 to 12)

- "Why we do it"
 - Focus: Information
 - Key: Responsibility (Hebrews 5:14)
- a. Patience (Maturity- time a child can wait between achievement and reward)
(2 Corinthians 6:6; Colossians 1:11; 2 Timothy 4:2)
 - b. Dependability (Proverbs 20:6; Psalms 12:1)
 - c. Determination (I Corinthians 2:2)
 - d. Punctuality
 - e. Self Control (Galatians 5:22)
 - f. Loyalty (Proverbs 20:6; 2 Samuel 16:17)
 - g. Compassion (Colossians 3:12; Psalms 72:13)
 - h. Alertness (Matthew 12:42)
 - i. Thriftiness – If you don't know the value, then there is no sacrifice in giving
 - j. **Responsibility** (Matthew 5:19)
 - k. Virtue (Proverbs 11:3; Proverbs 10:9)
 - l. Tolerance
 - m. Fairness (Titus 1:8)
 - n. Joyfulness

"Schools are not teaching children character anymore- neither is the television"

3. Skill Stage (ages 12 to 20 years)

- "How to do it"
 - (Focus on Self- Control)
 - Key: Wisdom, 2 Peter 1:5, 6; Titus 1:8
- a. Wisdom (James 1:5)
 - b. Discernment
 - c. Discretion - in dress, etc
 - d. Diligence
 - e. Endurance
 - f. Deference -- limiting my freedom
 - g. Sincerity
 - h. Generosity
 - i. Humility
 - j. Enthusiasm
 - k. Initiative - to share Christ
 - l. Love vs. Lust
 - m. Creativity
 - n. Decisiveness
 - o. Sensitivity
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4. Apprenticeship Stage (ages 20 to 30 years)

- "Learning by doing"
 - Focus: Service (Romans 12:11; 1 Timothy 3:10; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:12)
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5. Ministry Stage (ages 30 to 50 years)

- "Lead others in doing"
 - Focus: Public Ministry (2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Corinthians 12:5; 2 Corinthians 9:12; 2 Corinthians 5:18)
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6. Counsel Stage (Ages 50 to the end of life)

- "Guide others in doing"
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7. Heritage Stage (that which is left to others after death)

- Focus: Written and Living Epistles (2 Corinthians 3:2; Colossians 4:16)

Discipline of Children

A. Need

1. Universal Romans 3:23
2. From Birth Proverbs 22:15
3. Break Self Will Proverbs 23:14

B. Method

1. Spank with a rod Proverbs 22:15
2. For Disobedience Ephesians 6:1
3. Not with Words Proverbs 29:19
4. Until it hurts Proverbs 20:30
5. In private Matthew 18:15
6. The same each time
7. Without anger Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 4:11
8. Instantly Ecclesiastics. 8:11; Proverbs 13:24
9. With Love Proverbs 13:24

*Love demands discipline
Discipline demands love*

10. through Jesus Philippians 4:13

11. For their best good Deut. 5:29; Hebrews 12:10; Ephesians 1:8

Ten Basic Steps of Correction

1. Establish responsibility for Disobedience. Ask "What did you do?" Not "Why?"
2. Get Alone. Avoid embarrassment and outside interference. (Matthew 18:15)
3. Communicate parental grief over the offense, project this by facial expression. Sit down with them in silence, the goal is to bring them to repentance. This gives *you* a chance to cool down and *them* an opportunity to reflect.
4. Associate love and correction; compare it to God's love (Hebrews 12:6). Never discipline out of personal irritation or wounded pride and try to get even.
5. Establish God as the final authority and emphasize parental authority. God sees all (Genesis 16:13). "I have to answer to God if I do not correct you."
6. Use a neutral object...A *rod*, NOT a hand or a belt. We do not want them to associate our hand with pain or hurt. Use the same paddle each time. As you go to get it, it both calms you down and warns the child. (Proverbs 10:13; 13:23; 14:3; 22:15; 23:13, 14; 26:3)
7. Discipline until the *will* is broken, NOT the *spirit*. Don't overcorrect. Do the least amount that is needed to break the will. (Proverbs 19:18)
8. Comfort the child after the correction through love, words, and your presence. Reassure their acceptance. Never send them away to a room.
9. Discuss any restitution and establish the child's responsibility to ask forgiveness.
10. Evaluate your correction and your child's response to it. Always express humility. *If* you were angry or embarrassed, then ask the child's forgiveness later when you are calm.

To: My Parents

From: Your Child

Subject: Suggestions from Me to You

Date: For the rest of my life

1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it; it makes me feel more secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits. I have to rely on your to detect them I the early stages.
4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly "big".
5. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
6. Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.
7. Don't protect me from consequences; I need to learn the painful way sometimes.
8. Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you". It is not you that I hate but your power to thwart me.
9. Don't take too much attention to my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention that I need.
10. Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself y appearing deaf.
11. Don't make rash promises. Remember that I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
12. Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I would like. That is why I' m not always very accurate.
13. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
14. Don't be inconsistent. That completely confuse me and make s me lose faith in you.

15. Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking you and seek my information elsewhere.
16. Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
17. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
18. Don't ever think it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm toward you.
19. Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do try.
20. Don't forget I love experimenting. I couldn't get on without it, so please put up with it.
21. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of understanding love, but I don't need to tell you, do I?

Source: Biola University, L.A. California

Susanna Wesley's Rules of Order

1. Children must eat what is put before them
2. No eating between meals
3. Build good regular habits.
4. Discipline is a necessity, not an option.
5. Children must be responsible
6. No reward for bad behavior.
7. Girls must learn reading and writing before being taught domestic skills.
8. Immediate confession rewarded.
9. All good behavior to be rewarded immediately.
10. Children are not to manipulate their family.
11. No bringing up the past (regarding misbehavior).
12. Give individual attention to each child.

* Mother of John and Charles Wesley, 1669 -1742

You and Your Child

by Mary Massey

- 1) Teach your child to love God, Mark 12:30; Deuteronomy 6:7
- 2) Teach your child how to have a good self image, Mark 12:31
- 3) Teach your child to be obedient, Ephesians 6:1; I Peter 2:13, 14
- 4) Teach your child to seek first the Kingdom of God, Matthew 6:33
- 5) Teach your child to humble himself, I Peter 5:5, 6
- 6) Teach your child to grow in Christian virtue, II Peter 1:5-7
- 7) Teach your child to guard his tongue, James 3:5
- 8) Teach your child self-control, Galatians 5:22, 23
- 9) Teach your child how to make decisions, James 1:5
- 10) Teach your child the family tradition, Joshua 4:21, 22