

Preparing Your Child For Future Success

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In Our Home, We Took Biblical Instruction Literally :

My wife and I love one another. We have tried to practice love, the Biblical kind, and model it for our children to see. It is a high priority for us. We love our kids . . .

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends.

To demonstrate our love toward our children, we:

- Regularly spend time, face-to-face
- Make eye contact
- Listen
- Encourage
- Play
- Gently direct
- Praise, affirm
- We show support

We took and continue to take seriously our active parenting role, to work together as a team to raise our children:

Children are a heritage from the LORD... – Psalm 127:3

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. – Proverbs 17:6

The just man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him. – Proverbs 20:7

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers... - Malachi 4:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

**WE EXPLORED WHAT IS INVOLVED
IN THE STEPS TO "TRAIN"**

Training Involves:

- demonstrating
- give clear instructions, making expectations known in advance
- we anticipate what will be difficult, and we slow down when learning new complex tasks, we break things down into small bite-size chunks
- gradually we give a trainee an opportunity to try a new skill under supervision and with help

- giving constructive and patient feedback, gentle correction
- patiently refrain from harsh, critical, and angry words
- praise and reward success
- gradually allow greater independence as the trainee (child or young adult) demonstrates readiness
- discipline and set-back for disobedient behavior, lack of self-control, or poor judgment

Parents Must Speak With One Voice

Train a child in the way he should go . . .

We kept our eye on the goal: for our children to live successful, independent, Christian lives.

We recognized the limited time frame we were operating in: approximately 18 years.

What all does a successful, independent Christian need to know at the end of 18 years?

- To respect others
- To know right from wrong, to know God
- To be self-controlled, self-disciplined
- To be industrious, accomplished
- To be able to follow the instructions of teachers and adult authorities
- To use good judgment
- To be able to use independent thought within the confines of those in authority
- To initiate productive activity
- To enjoy life

Warning: If our children have not mastered these tasks and taken on these qualities by approximately 18 years old, they will **NOT BE READY** to leave home, such as to go away to college, live on their own, etc. Each additional year it takes to master these qualities, decreases the chances that goal will be achieved.

Let's think about the training goals for different ages:

For 1 Year Olds:

- basic obedience to instruction

Let's think about the training goals for different ages:

For 2 Year Olds:

- basic obedience
- self-control
- increasing respect for others
- learning to follow very basic instructions
- beginning self-care

Let's think about the training goals for different ages:

For 3 Year Olds:

- obedience
- self-control
- respect for others
- basic development of character traits
- following increasingly complex instructions
 - completing tasks with supervision
 - basic self-care
 - beginning grasp of rules

Let's think about the training goals for different ages:

For 4 Year Olds:

- obedience
- self-control
- respect for others
- further development of character traits
 - following instructions
- completing increasingly complex tasks with supervision
 - increasing responsibility for self-care
- focusing, maintaining concentration for longer periods
- increasing expectation that children know and remember rules, and information

Let's think about the training goals for
different ages:

For 5 Year Olds:

- obedience
- self-control
- respect for others
- progress in development of character traits
- following instructions
- completing increasingly complex tasks with less supervision
 - greater responsibility for self-care
- focusing, maintaining concentration for longer periods
- greater expectations that children know and remember rules, and information
 - increasing self-directed behavior