

## Introduction:

- Every parent desires that his child should grow up to be a good, upright and productive individual. This does not happen by mere wishful thinking; rather a concerted effort needs to be made.
- The Quraan Majeed and ahaadeeth instruct us to give the correct upbringing to our children. Numerous incidents of the Ambiyaa's ('alaihimus salaam) conduct with their children have been related in the Quraan Majeed.
- There are two aspects of parenting: effort and result. We need to make the correct effort and leave the result to Allah Ta'ala. We should not be over concerned about the result and neglect the effort.
- Parenting is not a once off thing; rather it is a full time job.
- The most effective method of upbringing is "leading by example." We need to be the person who we want our child to be.
- Upbringing is the responsibility of both parents and both should be concerned about it. They should also co-ordinate their efforts in nurturing, so that the child is not left confused.
- A happy relationship between the parents is essential for the child's proper upbringing. Fights and arguments between the parents have a very adverse effect on the child. If you love your child, love his/her mother/father (i.e. your spouse).

Hereunder are a few guidelines, which will insha-Allah assist in making our children the 'coolness of our eyes.'

## Aspiration and Mindset:

1. We need to have the right 'dream' for our child. Our mindset must be that my child must be Muslim first, then anything else.
2. If the mindset is only materialistic, we are bound to stray and compromise on our deen.
3. When the aspiration will be wrong, one will not mind one's daughters going to the 'vicious' environment of a university or staying hundreds or even thousands of miles away all alone in order to acquire some degree. In many cases it was the very degree and career which later led to the breakdown of the marriage.

## Du'aa:

1. The parents du'aa is extremely powerful and readily accepted.

Numerous incidents in the past bear testimony to this fact.

2. 'Allamah Abdul Wahhaab Sha'raani (rahimahullah) says: "The most effective means of correcting one's children is to diligently make du'aa for their reformation." Unfortunately this easy prescription is being totally neglected. The ill effects of this neglect are being experienced by parents. (Ma'aariful Quraan , vol. 7, pg. 726)

3. Take out time daily to make du'aa for your child. Performing two rakaats of salaatul haajah first would be even better.

## Love and Attention:

1. Win your child over with love and affection. Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) would even kiss little children. (Saheeh Bukhaari #5997)

2. If the child does not get love and attention from his parents, he will look for it elsewhere. This ends up in him befriending the wrong people and falling into wrong habits.

3. Spend quality time with your child. There is no point in providing him with luxuries and comforts if you cannot give him your time.

4. Speak to your child and nurture him to think correctly. This is not only the responsibility of the school and madrasah.

5. The above could be easily achieved by conducting ta'leem daily in the home, assisting the child with his madrasah and school work, narrating good stories to him and teaching him the du'aas and etiquettes for various occasions.

## From a Young Age:

1. Do not think that the child is still too small for being corrected and nurtured. Some experts claim that good or bad qualities take root in a child until the age of five. Hence, good habits need to be instilled in him before this age.

2. The child should be accustomed to doing 'ibaadat from a young age, so that it becomes part of his system by the time it becomes obligatory on him. Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has said: "Instruct your children to perform salaah from the age of seven, and discipline them for not performing it at the age of ten, and separate their sleeping places." (Sunan Abi Dawood #495)

## Education:

1. Ensure that your child receives the correct Islamic education.

2. Attending the maktab is essential. Studying some Islamic subjects in a school cannot replace it. Do not compromise on this at all and do not allow him to stay absent for lame excuses.

3. There are so many negative influences and different sects and isms prevalent. The child can lose his deeni direction or even his imaan just by reading some wrong material or listening to the incorrect people. Be very vigilant in this regard.

4. Take them to the talks of deen and to good environments. Linking one's son up with a pious and learned 'Aalim is one of the greatest favours one can do for him.

## Essential Values:

Instil the following essential values in your child:

1. *Hayaa*: Modesty and shame is an integral part of our faith. The environment constantly bombards his mind with immodesty and shamelessness. We need to make an all out effort to instil hayaa in him, whether it is in speech, clothing, etc, and protect him from all those elements which destroy this great quality.

2. *Respect*: Respect is the ingredient for progress and disrespect leads to destruction. He needs to learn the rights of others (e.g. parents, elders, relatives, teachers, etc.) and the respect that needs to be afforded to each of them.

3. *Humility*: One of the major causes of problems in a person's life is pride, arrogance and ego. Instilling humility in him from a young age will help him very greatly in life. His manner of speaking, walking, conversing, etc. should be such that he does not become boastful at all.

## Life-Skills:

1. The habit of doing his own work should be inculcated in the child so that he does not become dependent and lazy. Encourage him to make his own bed at night and to get up early in the morning and neaten his bed again. He must place his dirty clothes in the washing basket neatly and assist in clearing up the table after meals.

2. The girls must be taught home making skills from a young age. As they get closer to marriageable age, they must be taught how to run the entire home. Negligence in this aspect has resulted in many marriages falling apart.

### Disciplining:

1. When the child persists or insists on having something, do not fulfil all his wishes or else he will become spoilt. When you say "no" for something, do not say "yes" thereafter.
2. When the child does something good, praise him, kiss him, and reward him so that he will feel happy. When he commits an evil act, call him aside in privacy and make him understand that he has committed an evil act and whoever comes to know of it will think bad of him. If he repeats that act, punish him appropriately.
3. If he deliberately breaks something or begins to hit someone, punish him accordingly so that he does not repeat such acts. Loving the child, consoling him or allowing him to commit such acts always causes the child to become 'lost' or spoilt.
4. Always insist on him admitting his mistakes and apologising for the wrongs that he has done, even if it be to the domestic worker.
5. A very effective way of disciplining the child is to deprive him of his privileges or to take away something that he really likes.

### Do's:

1. Embed the love of Allah Ta'ala, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and deen in his heart.
2. When you wish to give something to a beggar give him the responsibility of doing it.
3. Provide permissible alternative recreation for him.
4. Inculcate in him the love of good qualities, such as respect, modesty, humility, sympathy, simplicity, apologising, and the hatred of bad qualities like anger, lies, envy, jealousy, greed, wastage, deceiving, disrespect, pride, arrogance, immodesty, etc.
5. Ensure that he speaks correctly and respectfully.

### Don'ts:

1. Don't ever feel that my child is an 'angel' and he will never do something wrong.
2. Don't take his part when he is wrong.
3. Don't allow him to do anything secretly, even if it be playing some game. There needs to be total transparency in whatever he does.
4. Don't allow him to do anything that is contrary to the sharee'ah.
5. Don't physically abuse him or punish him in anger.

### Extremely Disastrous:

The following are extremely disastrous to his deen and worldly life:

1. *Uncontrolled usage of the cell-phone, internet, and social networks:* This leads to a host of problems to the deen and worldly life of the child. As far as possible discourage him from having a cell-phone. If this is not possible, allow him to keep a basic phone. You should be fully aware of exactly what he is doing with it.
2. *Bad friends and company:* They will ruin his life and will result in him falling into the worst of wrongs and addictions. Ensure that he has good friends. Try to do activities with him or at least supervise him when he is playing with his friends.
3. *Freedom:* Allowing the child to do what he wants, when he wants to, and to go where he wants with whom he wants is extremely dangerous. The child must always be answerable to his parents.

*May Allah Ta'ala make our children the coolness of our eyes during our lifetime and a means of thawaab jaariyah for us after our demise, aameen.*

# Parenting the Islamic Way



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