



Raising a Child, the Muslim Way

Parenting in Islam



The Importance of Parenting in Islam & the Basics of Dealing with Children

Oh You Who Believe!

- “O you who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire, the fuel of which is human beings and stones” (at-Tahreem, 6)
- Rasulullah ﷺ said: Everyone of you is a shepherd, and will be questioned concerning his flock...a man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for them; a woman is a guardian of her husband's house (and children) and is responsible for them... (Sahih al-Bukhari, 5188)

How was Nabi ﷺ with children?

- He ﷺ loved children very deeply
- He ﷺ would pick up children and show them great love
- He ﷺ would stroke their heads out of affection for them
- He ﷺ would make little children laugh
- He ﷺ would give salaam to children passing by
- He ﷺ would seat children behind him when returning from a journey
- He ﷺ would shorten his prayers when he heard a child cry

(Khasail Nabawi)

VERY GENTLE

Anas رضي الله عنه narrates: I served Nabi صلى الله عليه وسلم for ten years in Madinah when I was a child. Not everything of mine was the way he wanted but he never expressed dissatisfaction about anything nor did he ever ask, ‘Why did you do this?’ or ‘Why did you not do this?’

(Abu Dawood, 4774)

Luqman ﷺ's Advice

- “My dear son, do not ascribe partners to Allah. Indeed, ascribing partners to Allah (shirk) is grave transgression.
- My dear son, in fact, if there be anything to the measure of a grain of rye, and it be (hidden) in a rock or in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Surely, Allah is All-Fine, All-Aware.
- My dear son, establish Salah , and bid the Fair and forbid the Unfair, and observe patience on what befalls you. Surely, this is among the matters of determination;
- And do not turn your cheek away from people, and do not walk on the earth haughtily. Surely, Allah does not like anyone who is arrogant, proud;
- And be moderate in your walk, and lower your voice. Surely, the ugliest of voices is the voice of the donkeys.”

(Surah Luqman, 13-19)

Some Basics

- A parent should be a silent recorder
- A child is a human being
- Give them time, on a daily schedule
- Advice from the parent is very valuable
- Televisions/Internet do not raise children, parents raise children
- The 'both parents working double-shift' model is not the Muslim way

What we want from our children

- The child is supposed to be everything that we were not able to become
- This takes training and tarbiya, which come with love
- Do not teach them anything that you would not want to see them doing to their children

The Rights of the Children

- Umar رضي الله عنه was visited by a father and son. The son was accused of being disobedient.
- The son said his father did not fulfill his rights:
 - “To marry a good, virtuous woman
 - To name the child by a good name
 - To teach knowledge of the Deen and Quran”

Don't let children become a means of disgrace in the Akhirah

- Love of phones, cars, money, etc. is taught very early on
- Trading items for Akhlaq
- Trading clothes for Adaab
- Trading games for good deeds
- Lest they trade in the Akhirah for a little Dunya!

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What to Do

Principles

- Islamic knowledge and a proper upbringing needs to come from the parents
- Tolerance, Tolerance, Tolerance
- Adopt Islamic, not Economic ideologies
- The Sunnah is key.

As soon as they are born...

- Congratulate the new parent
- Azan in the right ear, Iqamah in the left
- Tahneek
- Shave head on seventh day, give sadaqah equal to the weight of the hair in silver
- Aqeeqah on seventh day
- Name a good name

Formative Years

- Ages 0-11
- Alqamah عليه السلام: “Knowledge I learned in my youth is like writing on paper”
- Mansur عليه السلام: “When clay is wet, toys can be made, but when it has dried up, nothing can be made from it.”
- Teaching them about modesty and good manners

Teach them the Sunnah!

- “He does not speak from his own desire, it is nothing but revelation that is revealed.” (Surah al-Najm, 2-3)
- “Whoever revives my Sunnah loves me, and whoever loves me will be with me in Jannah” (Tirmizhi, 2678)
- The Practical Model

Talk to Them About the Deen

- Children do not know about Nabi ﷺ by birth!
- Stories about Nabi ﷺ and the Icons of our past are very important

Loving the Masjid and the Ulama

- Teach them to love knowledge, and the people of knowledge
- Teach them to love the masjid by bringing them

Teach Quran Before Anything Else

- Teach them Duas and Surahs
- Anything memorized at an early age is seldom forgotten

Salah

- **Make sure your salah is correct**
- Do not wait for seven/ten
- Do not abandon them after turning 13
- Remember, it is a responsibility
- Holidays should be spent in the masjid

Love and Compassion

- You don't have to say it, it's better actually to show it
- There is a natural confidence that must be built at this age

Trust

- Parents should build trust with children
- “If you want, I can look after your money, I will not give it out”
- “I will take you with me”

Clothes

- “Hayaa is a big part of Iman” (Muslim, 35)
- “Simplicity is part of Iman” (Abu Dawood, 4161)
- Neat and clean clothes
- Teaching them not to be extravagant
- Avoid clothing with pictures on it

Boys Clothes

- Love of Sunnah clothing
- The headgear as a sign of Islam
- Pants above the ankles
- Love of white clothing
- Keeping red and yellow away

Girls and Hijab

- Teaching them the practice and reasoning of Hijab
- Avoiding tight-fitting garments and see-through clothing

Cleanliness

- “Taharah is half of Iman” (Muslim, 41)
- Diligence in remaining clean
- Wearing shoes and covering the head is Sunnah
- Sitting down and urinating

Sunnahs of the Bathroom

- Enter with the left foot after dua
- Cover one's head and wear sandals
- Do not face the Qiblah while using the toilet or bathing
- Do not speak in bathroom
- Do not say Allah's name when using toilet
- Be careful about urine drops
- Use paper and water
- Exit with right foot

Etiquettes and Character

- Putting shoes away
- Hanging up clothes
- Saying JazakAllah
- Helping others
- Courtesy

Assign Responsibilities

- Mashwara at home
- Push them for chores from a very young age
- Never train him to be lazy, fixing own bed, keeping clean and tidy

Do's and Don'ts

- Never lie about giving something or a punishment
- Give generously to children
- Keep giving within normal limits
- Avoid saying, “Allah will punish you,” all the time
- Allah loves you, and Allah will be upset

Do's & Don'ts

- Avoid secrecy
- Avoid insults
- Positive reinforcement vs. punishment
- Commend the child if he is doing well, make him feel proud
- No playing after punishing
- Never strike out of anger, wait to cool down, then think thrice and make dua

Video Games and Phones

- A single phone is enough to destroy an entire family
- Only as a reward, not all the time, otherwise it will distract
- Give them books, teach them to love to read
- Take them outside instead of inside the phone

Asking Permission

- Giving Salaam when entering the house
- Asking permission to enter the bedroom
- Parents need privacy

Eating and Drinking

- Halal food always, meat is the most important part
- Nutritious and Healthy diet
- Right hand
- Not eating to fill belly
- Duas at the time of eating
- Eating on the ground is a Sunnah
- Eating from the front of the plate
- Kids tend to take more than they need, teach portioning
- Cleaning fingers by licking them clean

Sleep

- Get them used to getting up in the morning
- Put them to sleep on time
- Make sure they read their duas before sleep

Arguments in the House

- Never discuss delicate matters in front of child
- Never try to make the child take sides
- Always leave arguments behind closed doors, and never loud enough so that children hear
- Never side with the child in front of them against the other parent

Stopping Bad Habits

- Pulling off glasses
- Hands in others' pockets
- Opening cupboards

Reprimanding

- Prohibit evil
- Not in front of others
- Explaining, not just senseless yelling
- Positive reinforcement

Nazr

- Caution about this
- “The evil eye is a reality.” (Muslim, 2187)

Marriage of Children

- Should be discussing this candidly with our children
- Being honest about talking about the Nafs and Zina'

Conclusion

- To embed in the child: You are here for Allah, not Dunya
- You are here to help the Deen of Allah, in anyway possible
- This world will help you to your destination, but do not let the water get into the ship
- You and I will die, the children will carry on our legacy
- What will they do for us?