

iLIGHT

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CONTENTS

The Value of Christian Parenting	1
Praying with and for our Kids	1
Instilling a Biblical Worldview.....	2
Hugs from Jesus	2
Kids & ADRA.....	3
Adventist Possibility Ministries	4
Ellen White on Children.....	4
Teens Devotional.....	5
Questions & Answers.....	5
Quick Guide to Discipline.....	6
Kids & Family.....	6
Hints about Leadership.....	7
Worship Ideas for Kids.....	7
Kids & Science.....	8
Children's Declarations.....	8
Handbook on Children's Ministry.....	9
Parenting Teens.....	9
Activity Report.....	10
Keep in Mind.....	11
Intergenerational Worship.....	12



The Value of Christian Parenting

Praying with and for our kids

Children learn more from your spontaneous reactions than from any of the well-planned words you speak. Develop the habit of prayer, and teach your children the joy of spontaneously speaking to God. **The habit of asking advice.** When challenges confront you and your children, or when decisions are pending, the habit of seeking counsel from the Lord is one that will result in spontaneous blessing, as well. God's wisdom is generously provided when sought. Train your children—by your own conviction—to seek the Almighty when in need of good advice.

from: "Praying with & for your kids. The Pocket Guide for Parents" Borden Books, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, 2006

Parenting is one of life's greatest blessings. Parenting can also be challenging. And in today's world, *Christian* parenting can be even more challenging. There are many distractions, including life's busyness, for both parents and children. And perhaps, along with the distractions and busyness, another obstacle standing in the way of quality parenting could be the lack of time parents spend nurturing their spiritual life.

Often, parents long for guidance. Some did not have good role models growing up. Perhaps no one ever showed them how to have a relationship with Jesus, how to spend time in His word, or how to spend time with Him in prayer. Those are things that are best learned by example. Deuteronomy 6:6-7¹ reminds us that we are to keep the Lord's instruction in our heart, teach it all carefully to our children, and talk about these things when we are sitting at home, traveling, getting up in the morning, and going to bed at night. We are further told in Proverbs 6:20-22, "keep your father's command, and do

not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you, and when you awake, they will speak with you." The commands and law spoken of in these, and other, verses are best learned from the parents. God's Word provides instruction and guidance for many of life's concerns, including how to raise children to love and serve Jesus through our daily lives.

In an ideal world, "the father and the mother should be the first teachers of their children,"² and "it should be the object of every parent to secure to his child a well-balanced, symmetrical character."³ Parenting is a huge responsibility, one to be taken seriously. Dr. Paul Tripp drives this point further home:

"The value of parenting goes to the heart of what God has designed every human being to know and to be. To lose this thing is literally to lose a piece of your humanity. Parenting gets to the core of what should motivate every thought, ▶

INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



Be an example of someone who is not afraid to stand firm

We live in a world that is not God-friendly. We live in a world that fights against anything that has to do with the Bible. We live in a world where morals are turned upside down. What God says is right, the world says is wrong. What God says is wrong, the world says is right.

The Lord isn't surprised at this - He knows life in sin-filled world is tough. That's why He supplies us with armor. That's why He reminds us to stand firm. *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.* (Ephesians 6:13 ESV). We can talk to our children about this - but showing them is even better. How do we react when...

- someone at work makes fun of us because of our beliefs?
- we actually lose a job promotion because of our faith?
- someone lashes out at us because we're holding a Bible study in our home?

Do our children see us react with inappropriate language and rage or do they see us be firm (and self-controlled) in our beliefs? Children watch. We need to be good examples in choosing right from wrong. We need to be good examples in standing firm in our faith. Our kids need to see that our faith means something to us.

From: Weddle, L.: *10 Ways to Instill a Biblical Worldview in Your Kids*. Awana Clubs International, Streamwood, IL, USA, 2013

desire, word, decision, or action that every human being has ever taken. There is nothing in the life of any child ever born that is more needed than this. This is the thing that makes parenting of highest importance—holy—in the true sense of all that word means. This should be the goal at the bottom of all the things you do and all the things you want for your children. To lose sight of this is to miss the point of parenting. To lose sight of this removes the tracks that give direction to all that you do with each of your children. This is the thing that should satisfy you on those good days with your children and keep you motivated on the very hard days with them. This really is the central task that makes your work as a parent a treasure of extreme value.”⁴

The work of Christian parenting is not one to be taken lightly. If you are a parent, what busyness and distractions are currently competing for the value that parenting should have in your life? Parenting is a job you do not get the chance to do over. All the good intentions in the world will not make up for the consistent, diligent work that is needed to accomplish the raising of children. You can't put it off until tomorrow. Every day counts. Dr. John Youngberg once said that “Great ideals don't live on just because they are great or because they are true. They live on only when they are enshrined in the hearts of the young. Our most treasured religious ideas are always only one generation from extinction.”⁵

A meme I recently saw declared “The best children's ministry program is kids

watching their parents follow Jesus.” Yes, that would be the very best children's ministry program! If all parents followed Jesus, and disciplined their children to follow Him, children's ministries programs would look totally different, and might even be unnecessary. I believe that most parents want the very best for their children and are genuinely trying to raise their children in the best way they know. One of our contributions as children's ministries leaders is to nurture and encourage parents in their roles as fathers and mothers. Discipling parents to disciple their children is a way to ensure that our most treasured religious ideas—God's instruction to us—to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:4) will be passed to future generations. ♦

¹All Scripture references are from the NKJV, unless otherwise indicated.

²Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 1954, 1982), 21.

³Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 1954, 1982), 17.

⁴Paul D. Tripp, *Parenting: Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), 29.

⁵John Youngberg in Karen and Ronald M. Flowers, *The Family: A School of Human Relations*. (Doral, FL: Inter-American Division Publishing Association, 2009), 75.

Lisa Clouzet

Northern Asia-Pacific Division
Children's Ministries Director



Hugs from JESUS

Follow Me

Assign each child the name of a different disciple, such as Peter, James, John, Andrew, etc. Have them all sit down until you call each one in turn. Walk up to the child and say, “Jesus said to Andrew, ‘Come, follow Me.’” Have the child follow you. Play follow

the leader around the room, then approach the next child. “Jesus said to Matthew, ‘Come, follow Me.’” etc. Repeat until everyone is following Jesus. Then repeat, allowing each child to be Jesus and invite the others to follow.

Dear Jesus, I want to follow You too. Amen.

From: Dillon, Sally D.: *Hugs from Jesus*. Review and Herald, Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2001

ADRA helping children in Romania

Larisa is a beautiful little girl, whose big black eyes hide an impressive life story. At the age of one year and two months, she lost her mother (due to a dental abscess) who was only 28 years old.

3 children were left orphaned: Larisa, and two siblings. The father, a responsible man, tries his best to fight for his children, but beyond bread and clothes, no matter how much he wants, he cannot give his children the love of motherhood. Larisa impressed us for her desire to learn and for her interest in education: every year she won only the 1st prize, with the crown. If at first, when we crossed her threshold, she looked at us coldly, with some questions in her heart, today, Larisa gladly offers us her smile and hug ... She is a child who has little of the goods of this world, but dreams that through education she will have the chance to have a better future ... And beyond the monthly package with food and other products she received from ADRA, she is happy because she has met people who know how to show her love.

Gabriela Istrate, social worker

Nicoleta is a fourth grade student. She does well at school, but at home... she was not always well! But she got really excited when receiving the package. I couldn't guess what was behind that smile...

But on one occasion she revealed the secret. In her family, consisting of 5 members, she did not know the peace and harmony of a home. The father went to work every day, leaving the three little girls in the care of their mother. But she completely neglected them, they almost didn't even meet during the day, and when they did, she spoke harshly to them. Lacking food, hygiene, the pleasant company of a mother and her love, Nicoleta and her sisters grew up in the wild. He told me how early in the morning or late in the evening his father prepared food for them, what he knew, they spent the day alone, on an empty stomach and untidy, while in the next room, her

mother frequently received visits from strange men. When their father returned, they helplessly witnessed the quarrels and conflicts between the two parents. The paternal aunts repeatedly informed the local authorities about the situation of the girls, but the mother campaigned for her parental rights, accusing her husband of domestic violence and abuse, calling him the main culprit. About 2 years ago, the father was deprived of his liberty because of these accusations. In his absence, the situation of the three sisters worsened. Attendance at school classes was also affected. Once again, the local authorities in the field of child protection were notified. This time, the steps were favorable for the children who were placed in the care of each aunt. For 8 months Nicoleta has been enjoying all her aunt's attention and care. Although she lives with her, her daughter and her niece, and the space and resources are limited, she found here the peace and harmony needed to achieve spiritual and mental balance. Even school results started to appear! Now Nicoleta can smile when she receives the package from ADRA! Her aunt was very thankful, with emotion and gratitude, for our support!"

Adina Nitu, local coordinator



©Photo: ADRA



©Photo: ADRA



©Photo: ADRA



©Photo: ADRA

Please support ADRA's Advocacy campaign:

Web: <https://inschool.adra.org/>

By signing this petition you too can show solidarity with children and teenagers coming from disadvantaged homes. Join with ADRA in creating a better learning environment for all children.



Sabbath with an extraordinary child

Sabbath is a day of celebration, as a French Sabbath School song says: "Today is Sabbath, it's a day of celebration, today is Sabbath it's a day of joy". Yet, just thinking about it, I feel tired!

Don't get me wrong, I love my church and Sabbath. When I became a mother (already 16 years ago!), I knew that my church life would be more complicated during our children's childhood, and then I had my little boy with his genetic disease and his delayed understanding. The most complicated period, which was supposed to last a certain amount of time, it got longer and longer ... He's 10 years old now and we're still in this period and we'll probably be in it for a long time to come.

My son may never understand a sermon and he may never sit next to me or his friends (he likes to play with the younger ones). In his special school, the team that looks after him says that he can't sit and do anything for more than 5-7 minutes... how can he stay seated during a whole church service?

My church life is mainly focused on him and I cannot enjoy much of the moments of worship or the fellowship. Example: at the end of the service it is a race to keep our son from leaving the church because he doesn't pay attention when crossing the street and he is able to go far away without knowing

how to go back. How can I listen to the people who talk to me and at the same time always look after him carefully so that he doesn't leave? The two big brothers and some church members help me and stay attentive to this, but my social life at the end of the service remains very poor.

Lately, due to the confinement, we have established rituals so that our son can live this period as well as possible. On Sabbaths, he dressed well because he likes to put on a shirt, he watched the video of his Sabbath School, kindly provided by the Sabbath School teachers; then came an essential part, the most meaningful for him: the songs. He always comes out with plenty of musical instruments to make music in his own way. Then came the moment of the video of our church. He watches, moves, plays near us, goes to look for something, comes back, he is happy to be there and... I didn't have the opportunity to listen to a sermon for such a long time!

I experienced in confinement a solution to my Sabbath fatigue with this child, being able to listen to a sermon while seeing him move around freely, expressing himself as he wishes and



©Photo: Daisy Delameillieure Rivero

living a beautiful Sabbath in spite of this confinement.

How can we parents of "different" children live a richer Sabbath both for us and for our child, when the conditions in the church are not favorable? With all the beautiful things it offers, even though a few people are willing to help us, the church is not yet ready to welcome children with extraordinary needs and their families.

Daisy Delameillieure
Rivero
Belgium
Pastor's wife



Every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious, living example of what they desire them to be. Purity in speech and true Christian courtesy should be constantly practiced. Teach the children and youth to respect themselves, to be true to God, true to principle; teach them to respect and obey the law of God. These principles will control their lives and will be carried out in their associations with others.

The Adventist Home, p. 16



Bible Passage

Read Matthew 6 with this devotional.

Do you know why Jesus taught His disciples to say, "Our Father in heaven"? I think it was because He didn't want them to be afraid or nervous when they prayed. If Jesus had taught them to say "King of kings" or "Great Ruler of the universe," they might have been scared. I would be nervous about talking to the president or even a senator of our country. But few are afraid to talk to a father. I am a father. I have two sons and two daughters, and they are not afraid to talk to me.

One day when my eldest son, Lenny, was just a little fellow 4 years old, he awoke at 4.00 a.m., crawled out of his crib, sat on top of me, then started: "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy! Please, Daddy, will you make me a toy car? And paint it green all over and put a toot-toot on it like an engine train, and a seat in it for the pussy-cat to ride on? Will you, Daddy? Huh?"

I was so sleepy that I said, "I'll do any-

thing if you will only let me sleep."

So later on he ran over to where his little friends Barnabas and Stephen lived. "Daddy's going to make me a toy car. He said he would," he shouted. And all day long, every time I saw him, Lenny said, "You are going to make me a toy car, aren't you, Daddy? You said you would!"

At last the day was done, and he lay asleep in his crib.

"Isn't he sweet!" said his mother as we looked fondly at him.

"Yes," I said, "when he's asleep! He has toy-car'd me all day long."

But I *was* his father, and I *did* love him, and I *had* promised, so while the little fellow slept I went downstairs and worked till midnight. I made him a toy car with a toot-toot on it like an engine train. I painted it green all over, and made a seat in it for the cat to ride on, and I put it right beside his bed where he could find it in the morning.



God is King of kings, be He also is our heavenly Father! Never be afraid to tell Him everything, or to ask His help for every occasion. He is your Father. He *has* promised to supply all your needs, and He will!

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Matthew 6:9

From: Hare, Eric B.: *Skyscrapers. Daily Devotions for Juniors*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2009

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Why do adults get to do whatever they want?

Preschooler

To preschoolers, who are told what to do about almost everything, it certainly appears as though adults have it made. We stay up as late as we wish and eat what we want, when we want. Explain that adults and children must both listen to God and obey his rules. And God told parents to raise their children.

Elementary Age

This question usually pops up when a child doesn't get what he/she wants. Elementary-age children desire more independence and think parents have it easy (if only they knew!). Validate that adults *do* have more choices, but we still have to follow rules—the laws, but most importantly, what God says. Allow your child to make more choices when

possible. Practicing making choices now leads to making better choices later.

Preteen

Tell your preteen he/she is right—adults get to do what they want. But every choice comes with a consequence. When we follow God's plan for us and let the Bible guide us, we're more likely to make good choices. As your preteen demonstrates responsibility, give him/her more opportunities to make choices.

Related Scriptures

Matthew 5:14-16 speaks of how we represent Christ through the choices we make. Micah 6:8 tells us how to live.



From: *Trust Us... They'll Ask. Answers to your kids' toughest and most awkward questions*. Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2011

Good Ideas for Bad Behavior: Uninterested Child

Question: How can I reach a child who doesn't care because he doesn't want to be in my class?

Answer: Unless a child perceives what you're teaching to be relevant to him, little learning will take place. Find out more about the child by asking these questions:

- What do you like best about our class? Or, what do you wish we'd do in class? (Include these kinds of activities as often as possible.)
- What do you like to do at home? (You probably won't be able to include every child's hobby, but getting to know a child helps him feel more comfortable and helps you personalize the lesson for him.)

- Who's your best friend in our class? (The nonparticipant often doesn't feel he has a friend in the class. Get him with someone he knows, or connect him with an outgoing child who's a regular attendee.)

What you should do

- Offer choices. Letting kids choose between two topics or different ways to learn the lesson increases their interest level.
- Befriend kids. Relationships help kids want to learn. Although friendships take time to build, they can motivate kids to come to class.
- Have fun. Few kids can resist a fun experience. Make sure your room looks and sounds fun.

What you should not do

- Don't ignore the child.
- Don't let other kids leave him out because he resists joining; instead, try giving him a small role of responsibility.
- Don't underestimate the importance of making a personal connection with the child.

Decoder

A child who won't participate may be holding back for a reason you're unaware of, such as serious shyness or a learning disability. Don't assume that a child who's not participating just isn't interested—but do assume that you need to connect personally with him or her and also with the parent.

From: *The Quick Guide to Discipline for Children's Ministry*. 101 Good Ideas for Bad Behavior. Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2009

KIDS & FAMILY

BY RAINER WANITSCHKE,
EUD FAMILY MINISTRIES



Our family gates—The 6th gate: The Fountain Gate (part 2)

People who were idealized in their childhood often have to struggle with problems for the rest of their lives: "They will always be busy getting everything right and doing justice to what their parents have told them".

But then how? After all, each of our children is special, and we want to show them that!

The key is to be concrete.

The crucial point: we should be concrete in what we say. A classic example illustrates this. The typical parental reflex when the child shows a picture he has painted himself:

- Wow, you painted that beautifully!

"We often react without reflection—some parents don't even look at it properly," says Frankenberger. In such moments it is important to show genuine interest:

- Tell me what you painted there. What were you thinking?
- I particularly like this: how you managed to make the sun's smiling face.

According to Frankenberger, there are other sentences from which children can draw strength for life. And most important: "I love you".

This may sound obvious, but in the

experience of the therapist, it is often underestimated: "Children hear their parents complaining and grumbling a lot. They then wonder very well whether their parents really love them. Therefore, these words cannot be said often enough."

After decades of studies, the American therapist John Gottman once stated: In a happy relationship, the positive outweighs the negative with a ratio of 5:1. "This 'formula of love' applies to couples as well as to families. The positive remarks, gestures and actions must clearly outweigh the negative," Frankenberger knows.

- "I am there / I am with you." or "You are safe."

"It is our job as parents to provide for the child, whatever comes. To do this, the child doesn't have to do anything or fulfil anything," explains Frankenberger.

- "I hear you / I see you." Above all, it is important that the child also experiences what is being said. For example: the child stands on top of the slide and says: "Look, Daddy!" A lot of parents respond, "Wow! I love how high you climbed!" Originally, the child was not interested in getting a rating: "It just

wanted to be seen," says Frankenberger, "When we say 'I see you' - we convey two things to the child: I see what you're doing. And I look after you."

- "I had a lot of fun with you." or "Thanks for helping me."

"After joint activities, recognition, feedback, is important. We should also not forget to say 'please' and 'thank you'," says Frankenberger

- "I think you can handle it."

If our kids are wrestling with something, we shouldn't jump in right away. "You can do it" is what Frankenberger considers to be an important message: "We accompany our children, but without always taking something from them at once. In the concrete challenge that they are currently mastering, we convey: "You can do it—even alone. I'll accompany you in the process."

In John 7:38, Jesus once formulated it like this: "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them". We may, with God's help, be a refreshing source for our children every day - and also draw and drink from His source, His Word, for our own good.



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BECOMING THE LEADER MY TEAM NEEDS ME TO BE

Great leaders raise up other leaders, and the greatest leaders are neither envious nor bitter when their apprentices surpass them.

From: Bealer, J. & McClain, G.: "Don't Quit." Orange, Cumming, GA, USA, 2017

QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

Little things are important

Bible Stories

- Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10
- Parables of the mustard seed and the yeast—Luke 13:18-21

Things you need:

Collection of little things that are very important such as:

- Key
- Button
- Pencil
- Stamp
- Bag

Worship activities

1. Collect the small items in the bag. Let your child reach into the bag and try to identify any objects without looking at them.
2. Ask your child why the little things could be important.
3. What other small things are really important?
4. Children are very important. Even though they are little, God can still do great things with them. Children can make a difference in the world by being loving and kind.
5. Little things are also important to God. It matters to Him when we lose our teddy bear. He knows where all the lost socks go; He cares when a little tear rolls down our face; He cares when we cut our finger.
6. Thank God that the little things matter to Him. Praise Him for the tiniest details that He has taken care of in

the world, and for the tiny little bugs and seeds He makes.

Another option:

An older child might like to have a matchbox challenge:

- Give him a small matchbox and let him fill it with as many different tiny items as he can.
- How many can he fit into the box? Think about a grain of rice, a lentil, a pin, a button, and other small items.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12



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Just for you

When do you feel very small? Do you sometimes feel inadequate as a parent? Even the tiny things you do for your child are very important. God can take the gifts you use for Him and use them to move mountains.

Experiment #5: Shrinking and growing fish

“Jesus answered, “Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life. (John 4:14)

Do you know you can be surrounded by water and still suffer from thirst and dehydration? We can use a simple experiment based on the physical property of water called osmosis to teach children about the importance of placing themselves in the right environment.

Materials: Cucumber, knife, cutter, distilled water, salt, two transparent cups, cooking scale, permanent marker, small teddy bear eyes (optional).

Time: Preparation 10-15 minutes. Completion takes 12-24 hours.

Safety gear: This experiment is quite safe but it requires the use of a knife/cutter to peel off the cucumber and to cut it into a fish shape. These steps require adult supervision.

Values: Our environment (friends, movies, music, Internet information...) affects our Christian life and can help us grow or make us shrink.

Procedure:

You can start asking your audience if they know what is different between fish that live in the sea and fish that live in rivers or lakes. Listen to their answers but do not give the solution until the end of the experiment.

Explain: *One of the differences between the sea and a river is the type of water they contain. Seas are made of salt water but rivers and most lakes contain fresh water. We will perform an experiment to explore what happens to fish when they are surrounded by salt water and fresh water. Instead of using live fish, we will use a cucumber to make our own fish.*

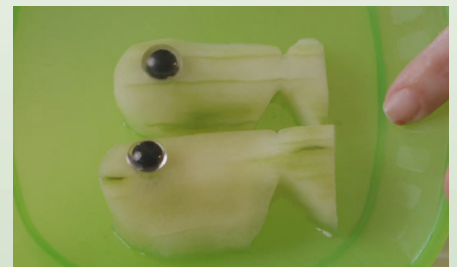
1. Cut a 10-cm piece of the cucumber and peel it off. Try to use a straight cucumber.
2. Cut the piece in half, longitudinally, so you end up with two half cucumber cylinders.
3. Use the cutter (or knife) to cut each part into a fish shape, trying to keep them as similar as possible.

4. Weigh your cucumber fish to ensure that they are similar in weight. If one of them is much heavier than the other, cut thin slices from the base until their weights are similar. Write down the weight.
5. Place a teddy bear eye on the side of each fish (optional).
6. Pour distilled water into the two cups.
7. Add two tablespoons of salt into one of the cups.
8. Mark the cup with the salty water “SEA” and the other “RIVER”.
9. Place one of the cucumber fish in each cup for 12-24 hours.

When you take the fish out of the water the next day, you will see that the fish in salt water has shrunk while the fish in fresh water has grown. You can weight them again to check how much their weights have changed.

Explain: *The fish in salt water has shrunk because the water in the cucumber has moved from the cucumber into the cup. In contrast, the fish in fresh water has grown because some water from the cup has moved into the cucumber. Both fish were similar at the beginning but depending on what surrounded them for a few hours, one of them has grown and become stronger while the other became smaller and flabby. Something similar happens to people. When we surround ourselves with the right people and the right “food” for our minds (healthy activities, good movies, books and music...) we grow in our Christian life but there are some environments that can make us shrink, so we should be careful about which type of “waters” we decide to dive into.*

The Science Behind The Experiment: Water always tends to move from more dilute to more concentrate solutions. This process called osmosis is responsible for the shrinkage and growth of the cucumber fish. In fresh water, the inner water of the cucumber has a higher solute concentration than the water in the cup, so the water molecules move into the cucumber. In salt water, the inner water of the cucumber has a lower solute concentration than the water in the cup, so the water molecules move out of the cucumber. This water movement from lower to



higher solute concentrations happens through any semipermeable membrane such as living cell membranes, affecting aquatic plants and animals. Animals living in fresh water need to expel the excess water that keeps entering their bodies and marine animals have special physiological mechanisms to cope with the continuous loss of water. That is also the reason why we cannot drink sea water. Because the solute concentration of sea water is higher than the concentration in our body, it actually steals our inner water, causing more thirst and dehydration.

Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office



Children's Devolutions

MARGAUX (3 YEARS)



The fish with black and yellow stripes are bee fish!

From: Perles d'enfants 2010. Editions 365, Paris, France, 2009



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From the HANDBOOK

on Children's Ministries

Learning Styles (part 1)

In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul likened the inter-dependence of the various parts of the human body to the cooperation of believers in the church. Each member contributes according to his or her gifts and thus benefits the whole. The contributing members, however, are gifted neither equally nor identically.

The human brain functions in the same way—different segments of the brain are designed to perform different jobs. Information from the different senses and nerves is fed to the corresponding area in the brain that provides for the most efficient processing. (...)

Research shows that an enhanced, stimulating environment in the early childhood years can improve a child's ability to learn. The way a child learns best can be called his or her preferred learning style. Whether one's modality is

primarily auditory, visual, tactile, or kinesthetic depends on which part of the child's brain dominated the function of processing, storing, and utilizing information.

Why is it important for teachers to identify their students' learning styles? Observe the learners in your classroom. Even if they are the same age and hold to the same basic age-group characteristics and needs, each learner displays differences in how he or she processes new concepts. As learners listen to the lesson, for example, one may prefer to sit upright at a desk while another squirms on the floor. One may be content to quietly pore over the illustrations, while another fires a barrage of questions and comments at you. We learn through all of our senses—but different individuals will rely more heavily on certain ones.

The left side of the brain controls commu-

nication, logic, and analytical ability. Learners whose left-side functions dominate their thinking may excel in math, reading, and writing. The right side of the brain controls spatial ability, visual perception, creativity, rhythm, and intuition. Right-brain thinkers tend to be artistic and creative.

Because most teaching favors those who can read, write, and do arithmetic (all left-brain tasks), children who process information through right-brain avenues may be judged unfairly as learning disabled and uncooperative. It is not only traditional teaching styles that tend to favor left-brain style learning, but also the traditional classroom itself. Research among school children has shown that a varied curriculum of arts and standard academic subjects improved their performance in all areas.

From: Choun, R. & Lawson, M.: *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 2002

PARENTING TEENS

Setting standards

Good parents who wish to try the inoculation method will involve the teen in setting standards for the home in advance of the event. Crucial areas include driving, dating and sexual behaviour. All must be addressed in discussion.

Advance preparation

Prior to the time a teenager is allowed the privilege of dating or driving, he or she should be encouraged to suggest guidelines to follow when using the car or dating later on. Parents, too, can have input into the agreement, which can then be drawn up.

Written rules

Y young person should help to formulate and agree to abide by written rules. He will tend to follow through much more consistently with these kinds of rules formulated in this way.

Time and patience

An approach like this takes time, effort and patience, but rich dividends are the handsome payoff. A teen who

has been allowed to make choices is likely to co-operate with family policies and to develop a healthy independence and self-respect.

'Everybody is doing it'

Parents must explain that everyone does not do things alike; therefore they do not need to know what other parents or teens are doing.

Some freedom

Parents should make every effort to be as lenient as possible and, within reason, give their teen the freedom he desires. However, it is very important that Christian parents establish early in their child's life that they do things differently as a whole than non-Christian parents because their value system is different.

Top tip

Once the rules have been agreed to, the parent must be careful to find the teen doing something right, and to affirm it.



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Don't say 'No' immediately

Parents always feel that they are on safe ground by thinking it over. Always listen to the arguments before saying 'No.'

Maybe

When 'No' becomes 'Yes' your no's for the future will be interpreted as if you have said, 'Maybe; ... I'll think it over.'

'Give me the facts'

A wise plan is to suggest, 'Give me the facts, and then I'll make a decision.' When the facts have been presented, say, 'I really haven't made a decision yet. Give me some time to think it over. I want to talk with your dad (or mum), and I'll let you know when we decide.' That way you make as rational a decision as possible.

From: Van Pelt, N.: *Parenting Teens*. Autumn House Publications, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK, 2009



ACTIVITIES



CHM ideas in collaboration with departments on Division and Union level



Creation Lab

from EUD

A series of videos about creation, prepared by the Geoscience Research Institute and the Spanish Union. Videos in Spanish available on Youtube. Videos in English are being prepared. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LZG7shG4CY>



Creation Detectives

from GRI

Science has no age limits. Join the Creation Detectives—Peter, Diane, James, Pr. Max and their intrepid dog Poirot—on their wild escapades as they follow one clue after another to some unexpected discoveries... that don't always make them popular, but always involve adventure! Enjoy reading this comic book based on real geology and paleontology research on the Coconino Sandstone. Link: <https://www.grisda.org/creation-detectives-flooded-desert>



Adventure in Galapagos

from SAD

New series of Adventist Education! Adventures in Galapagos, an unprecedented production to see #creationism in practice in a way you have never seen! Board with Dr. Will, Evie, Liz, and Max on this incredible journey. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9NA4P-dJeM>



The Tuis

from SPD

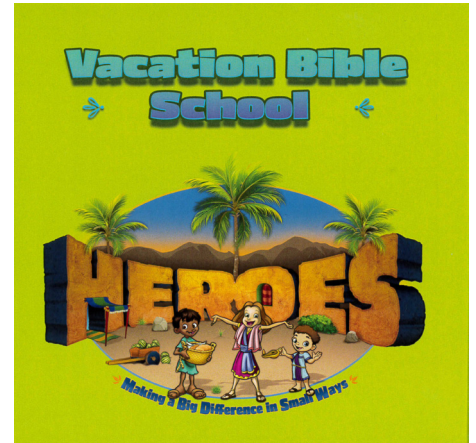
The Tuis are a Pacific Island Family who live in northern Australia. They live in a great neighborhood with the children's friends just nearby. They are involved in their local community and Videos available at: <https://thetuis.tv/>



Momento Infantil con Zory

from IAD

Series of videos about historic persons, in Spanish language. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09KWL7Bkw18&list=PLpMU-W6ArzSiAhJLqizTSc3208uPGLGiDZ>



Vacation Bible School: Heroes

from NAD

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to serving the community by providing a fun, interactive VBS that families can join from home! The VBS team has redesigned and customized Heroes VBS for churches and families during the COVID19 and post-COVID19 shutdown.

Churches and families can choose from two options: Heroes Church Edition and Heroes Home Edition Link: <https://www.adventistvbx.org/>



King's Kids

from SPD

Our world is changing rapidly! In the middle of this pandemic it is good to know that, with Jesus, we can be 'Calm in the storm'. Join Arnie and his friends for Sabbath School tomorrow, get involved in Discovery Bible Reading and learn how to stay healthy as we fight this virus. Make a craft as you learn about Jesus and HIS plans for your life. Remember you are a child of the King! Links: <https://vimeo.com/how-case/6915672/video/401177722> and <https://children.adventistchurch.com/resources/kings-kids-season-1/>

Back to School Time (having still Covid-19 around)

During the first part of this year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned everyone's life difficult and totally different, especially for parents and children. Now, after several months of lock-down, restrictions and isolation and after getting through the summer holidays, most of our children and teens are going back to school.

In some countries of EUD, children, teens and young adults already started to attend classes, in some others it will happen within few days, but for everyone this new step of life is bringing some fears, uncertainties, doubts, worries, questions... A new way of teaching, and organization of attending school, having to respect and keep appropriate distances can become a little hard for our kids.

The possibility to return to school is an important and hopefully welcomed step, because it is acknowledged that the possibility to attend school in person is the way children learn and develop the best. School provides more than just academics to children and adolescents. It is not only a place where they learn math, sciences, literature and so on, but ideally it is also the place where they learn emotional and social interaction and skills, where they can exercise and improve mental as physical health, and develop abilities that cannot be provided only with Online teaching. For many children and adolescents, schools are safe places to be, while parents or caregivers are working.

Thus, returning to class is both welcomed and feared for obvious reasons.

Beside the good reasons we just listed to return to school, there are many doubts and questions still on the hold from students and their families.

What should they have to do or learn in order to avoid running the risk of catching or spreading the dreaded virus? What happened if a child gets the virus? Who can guarantee that other students are all "clean"? These are only few of the many questions that rise to the mind of parents and children. How can we give support and encouragement to all those young student as they "navigate" in this new "unknown" sea?

As church community, we can find ideas and actions that we may put in place to show our children and teens that we care and we support them first of all with our prayers. But this should not remain the only action. Let's consider some possible ideas and options:

- If church members are meeting again in church, it could be good to set apart a special time on Sabbath for a "New School Year blessing" - all children, teens and youth may be invited up front in the church and a dedication blessing prayer can be said for them.
- If meeting in church is still not allowed, it is still possible to organize a special Zoom event asking all children and teens to participate and the blessing prayer can be offered Online.
- In this peculiar time of fears and uncertainties, it could be helpful to have someone from the faith community intentionally and specifically praying

for each one of the younger ones as they attend classes. In this case, a kind of "twinning" between younger and older church members could be organized and announced. Let the older ones assure the younger ones that they are addressing daily prayers to our heavenly Father for each one of them. Then, from time to time, they may connect with each other to share news and specific needs from the child.

- As most probably children will need to wear masks, it may be an idea to ask ladies who are able to sew to prepare some "personalized" masks for children. It may be a kind of wink to tell that someone is thinking of them. Or, in case this option is not feasible, as the daily use of disposable masks can turn pretty expensive for (large) families, the church may provide and distribute each one of them a number of disposable masks. For sure, such present will be more than appreciated by the family and again will confirm the attention the church is paying to families and youth. The same can be done with disinfection liquids and devices.

These are only a few hints to encourage, and care for, children from the church as they go back to school. Many other ideas and actions can be fostered and raised up. Creativity and inventiveness are more than welcomed to show church's support and concern.

Just let's say once more to all students: May God be with you, protect you and give you peace in this New School Year.

Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



The Creation Case Video Series

Rich, the field investigator is assigned by Headquarters to look for clues in nature and make a report. The investigation takes him to mountains, canyons, glaciers, volcanoes, caves, oceans, deserts and some of the most beautiful places in nature. Come along and investigate with Rich on his adventures.

You'll discover the evidence yourself... God is our Creator!

For additional information, contact your Division CHM Director.



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