

PARENTING TIPS

Tips for parenting through different phases: Discipleship in the home happens in big and little moments throughout the day. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to get started!

● Baby Tip:

This is the time when no one sleeps, everyone smells, and you are mesmerized. Every baby wants to know, "Am I safe?" If you have a baby in your home right now, your role is to EMBRACE their physical needs.

● Toddler Tip:

Everything they want to do requires a new skill: taking a first step, drinking from a sippy cup, learning new words. They are discovering their potential. Toddlers want to know, "Am I able?"

● Preschooler Tip:

Every preschooler wants to know, "Am I ok?" Every day, preschoolers are learning new social rules... you can throw a ball, but not a rock. Your job: Reassure them that they ARE ok!

● Kindergarten & 1st Grade Tip:

"Do I have your attention?" This is what they are asking! They are adjusting to big changes: going to school, waiting in lines at lunch, playing recreational sports... Your role: Engage their interests!

● 2nd & 3rd Grade Tip:

Every 2nd and 3rd grader wants to know... "Do I have what it takes?" Fairness matters most, differences are getting noticed, and kids are wondering how they measure up. This is a great opportunity to help them discover how they are unique!

● Tween Tip:

Friendship is very important at this stage. They are easily influenced by others. Your job is to help arrange and provide positive experiences with mentors, with peers, and in the home!

● Middle School Tip:

Middle school is a crisis. Hormones kick in, bodies become uncoordinated, and self-awareness is at an all-time high. Your role is to affirm their personal journey and walk with them through it!

● Eighth Grade Tip:

Eighth graders are asking the question, "Who do I want to be?" It's cool to have choices, and they are beginning to know "it all." Your job is to continue to affirm their journey while giving them purposeful opportunities to make decisions.

● High School Tip:

Your 9th and 10th graders are going to push you, question you, and maybe even rebel a little. They want to know, "Why should I believe?" Your role is to guide and support, being slow to speak and quick to show Christlike love through the journey.

● High School Tip:

Your 11th and 12th graders are asking "How can I matter?" and "What will I do?" These are two big questions that kids are asking at this stage. Mobilize their potential. Give them something significant to do.

● Anxiety Tip:

If your child is exhibiting signs of anxiety, here are five quick tips on how to help: encourage quality time, suggest a tech break, share your experiences, offer perspective, and help them "get moving" with physical activity.

● Faith Tip:

Make your home a great place to raise doubts. If your home is an unsafe place to ask questions, then kids will ask them of someone else.

● Conflict Resolution Tip:

Intentional listening is the key for you and your child. That means you're not forming a rebuttal in your mind while your child is talking, but you are truly listening to their words. We have two ears and one mouth for a reason.

● Technology Tip:

Be invested in what your kids are invested in online. If your children are going to have an app, you should have that app, too.

● Friendship Tip:

Let relational "bumps in the road" be opportunities to teach your children about loving others as they would love themselves. "Rescuing" your child from tough situations only teaches them they need to be rescued again and again.