

The Challenging Task of Being a Parent

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What is the measure of being a successful parent?

Our children do not belong to us they are only on loan. Hence the goal of parenting is to grow them up to be an independent functionally adult, who leaves



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What is involved in achieving this goal?



People
Principles
Practices
Priorities



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The People
Parents
Grandparents
Teachers
Family & Friends



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Lessons from Prison Inmates



40,000 inmates
Largest group
African American
& Hispanic
Smallest group
Jews - only 12



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Jewish Fathers

1. Affirm Them
Who they are not what they do
Their unique gifts and abilities
The value of character and excellence
2. Show Affection
Putting skin and flesh onto our words
3. Blesses Them
Dream Makers



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A Jewish Son - Jesus

We know that some time after 12 years of age Jesus was the oldest Son in a single parent family without a Dad



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The Affirmation of Jesus

His Baptism - Matt 3:13-17,
Mark 1:7-11, Luke 3:21-23

The Transfiguration - Matt 17:1-8,
Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36



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At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



Mark 1: 9-11

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Baptism → 40 Days in the Wilderness & the 3 temptations

Transfiguration → Gethsemane & the Cross



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"I've come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized."

Dr. Haim Ginott



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"A teacher's response has critical consequences... it creates a climate of competence or defiance, a mood of contentment or contention, a desire to make amends or to take revenge..."

Teachers have the power to affect a child's life for better or worse. A child becomes what he/she experiences. While parents possess the original key to their offspring's experience, teachers have a spare key.

They, too, can open or close the minds and hearts of children."

Dr Haim Ginott



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The Principles

Real
Relevant
Relational
Firm
Consistent



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The Practices

Age Appropriate
Learning through
Mistakes
Responsibility
WHO not DO



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No matter our age, the approval of our parents affects how I view myself and my ability to pass that approval along to my children, spouse, and friends. Many of us spend a lifetime looking for this acceptance that in the ancient world was called ...'The Blessing'

Gary Smalley & John Trent



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The Priorities

Am I good enough?



To be Loved
and Valued



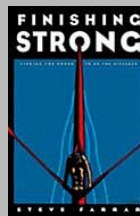
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The Impact of Not Being Affirmed

moral failure
discouragement
addiction
lack of support & encouragement
irresponsibility
boundary violations
neglect
poor self-concept
role & identity confusion



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Finishing Strong:
Finding the Power to
Go the Distance by
Farrar Steve

1 out of 10
2 out of 12
Joshua & Caleb



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Lessons from the Old Book



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Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, **do not exasperate** your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (NIV)

Fathers, **don't exasperate** your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the ways of the Master. (The Message)

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Colossians 3:21

Fathers, **do not embitter** your children, or they will become discouraged. (NIV)

Parents, **don't come down too hard** on your children or you'll crush their spirits (The Message)

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Don't crush their spirits

- Emotionally
- Relationally
- Spiritually
- Physically
- Mentally



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The Power of Affirmation

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Impart The Blessing

Gary Smalley & John Trent

- Meaningful Touch
- Spoken Words
- Expressing High Value
- Picturing a Special Future



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The First Element of the Blessing
- Meaningful Touch -

The story of Dorothy




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The Second Element of the Blessing
- Spoken Words -




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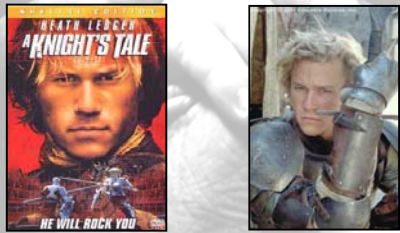

The Third Element of Blessing
- Expressing High Value -

Use an everyday object
 Match the emotional meaning of the trait to the object
 Use word pictures



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The Fourth Element
- Picturing a Special Future -
 Dream Makers or Dream Breakers

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The Priorities
Who's Needs?

Perfect Parent ← Good Enough Parent → Not Good Enough Parent
 Dotting Parent Distancing





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Time Machine




Legacy



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Parenting Strategies

- ◎ Understand your child – get into their shoes
- ◎ Have clear age appropriate boundaries that the child understands
- ◎ Focus on Strategic Battles – the one that you must win
- ◎ Don't get hooked into the debate. Use cool down times & pick your times to talk/discuss
- ◎ Separate your love & acceptance of them from your behaviour



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- ◎ Use choices and consequences
- ◎ Don't believe the brave front that they may put up
- ◎ Be consistent – follow through every time
- ◎ Teach them to think and assist them to generate alternatives
- ◎ Don't ask why
- ◎ Reinforce positives in ways that "stroke" your child



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Some Webpages For Parents


- ◎ Focus on the Family Australia
www.families.org.au
- ◎ The Australian Family Association
www.family.org.au
- ◎ The Australian Federation for the Family
<http://wingfold.tripod.com/ausfamily>
- ◎ Focus on the Family with Dr James Dobson
www.family.org



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Some Webpages For Parents

- ◎ Putting Family First
www.puttingfamilyfirst.info
- ◎ Plugged In
www.pluggedinonline.com
- ◎ Smart Marriages – The Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education
www.smartmarriages.com



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