

Developing Our Children

Daniel 1:1–16

Every parent knows their children better than anybody else and can see what makes each one unique. They see their strengths and their weaknesses. Daniel was a tremendous example, being a young man, 14 to 16 years old when taken captive to Babylon. He was inserted into a wicked society with a pagan religion. He was targeted as one that would be taught the language of Babylon and bridge the gap between Babylon and Israel. Yet, at the same time he maintained his loyalty to the Lord and to what was taught by his parents and teachers. Daniel had mental abilities (Daniel 1:4), social abilities (Daniel 1:4), convictions (Daniel 1:8) and Faith (Daniel 1:10–16).

I. Areas that need developing in our children

A. _____

1. Our goal should be to embed truth deep in the hearts of our children (Deut. 4:9).
2. We must be careful not boast of our child's giftedness without understanding the need for a right heart (Prov. 4:23).

B. _____

1. Character must have _____ over talent. Talent without character will lead to failure (Prov. 10:1).
2. We must _____ character over talent (Prov. 23:15–16).

C. _____ Aptitude

1. Parents must _____ for how God is working in our child's heart (Gal 5:22–23).
2. Be careful to allow your child to exercise their spiritual _____ (Rom. 12:6–8).

D. _____ Gifts

1. Help your children develop their _____ gifts (Prov. 18:16).
2. Good character will help your child bring those gifts to the point of usability.

E. _____ Gifts

1. _____ abilities (I Sam 16:18)
2. _____ (Ex. 35:30–35)
3. _____ (II Sam. 23:1)
4. _____ (Mark 6:3)
5. _____ and design
6. Teach your child to use the gift to _____ God (I Chron. 29:5).

F. Physical abilities

1. Be careful of your child's _____.

2. Keep your child _____.

G. Academics

1. Parents are responsible to protect their children from _____ influences in education.

2. Always train your children in godly _____ environments.

II. Strategy for our children

A. Make a list of character traits you want in your children.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • Courage | • Trustworthiness |
| • Generosity | • _____ |
| • Honesty | • _____ |
| • Integrity | • _____ |
| • Kindness | • _____ |
| • Patience | • _____ |
| • Reliability | • _____ |
| • Responsibility | • _____ |
| • Sincerity | • _____ |
| • Tenacity | • _____ |

B. List the character traits you see in your child and praise them when you notice them show them.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |

C. Identify and encourage the development of their spiritual gifts.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

D. Take an inventory of their natural gifts.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____