

## Be Wise in Parenting and Disciplining

Little ones naturally want their desires satisfied from hunger and dry bottoms as infants to whatever they see and want as they grow. It takes patience and discipline to help children not grab, scream, and push to get what they want. We need to teach them, train them, and continually remind them how to behave.

Consequences impact how they will continue to react. Just as slipping on a wet surface and getting hurt naturally helps children learn to be careful, so parental consequences for rules reinforce the need to be obedient. Positive reinforcement such as extra hugs or a playing a game after following rules helps children learn the joy of obeying.

We've all seen unruly children who have no boundaries or self-control. It's sad to know that's not giving them a good start in life. Choose to set goals to teach your children age-appropriate behavior. It is bet to focus on one negative behavior at a time and reinforce one good behavior. That gives them balance to know they are growing and learning and that they can improve.

It's also to be consistent and follow through with stated consequences. If you give in, they lose respect for you and believe they are in control and can whine and wear you down until they get their way. When they discover that you keep your word they learn that they must follow the rules to receive the rewards, or suffer the penalties. If a child can take out all the blocks, they can also put them back in to clean up. The following is from my book [Secrets of Success for Women: Christ in The Home](#).



# Godly Discipline



**Discipline** your son, and he will give you peace, he will bring delight to your soul. *Proverbs 29:17*

Discipline has two meanings.

## TRAINING

Discipline is "training" and "instruction" that develops character and talent. It requires practice. Help children become self-disciplined.

## TRAINING TIPS

- ❖ Establish and follow routines, such as brushing teeth in the morning and evening.
- ❖ Regular Bible study develops spiritual character.
- ❖ Create study areas and schedule for schoolwork/homework (at a set).
- ❖ Reinforce good habits (stickers for tots, extra playtime for young children, phone or TV/computer time for older children).
- ❖ Discuss how training helps people mature. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 9:25 and Ephesians 6:4.
- ❖ Allow some control. You may set the time of day for a chore, but let child choose the specific starting time.
- ❖ Encourage stewardship. Let them choose where to give their tithe or ways to raise money to give.
- ❖ Follow through on commitments (practice music lessons, timely arrival for sport events).

## CORRECTION

Discipline's other meaning is "correction" It eliminates bad habits and develops good behavior. Correction is not abusive. A shepherd used a rod to guide and protect sheep, not to beat them.

- Partner with your spouse to correct children.
- Be consistent (same problem/same consequence).
- Set appropriate consequences for infractions.

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11*

## CORRECTION TIPS

- ❖ Don't correct while angry or argue. Cool down first.
- ❖ Use tough love and seek professional help if needed. (Drugs and addictions)
- ❖ Set rules. When new situations arise pray and set a new rule. Be specific. Show how to follow each rule and explain its importance
- ❖ Establish appropriate consequences. Examples:  
No playtime if room is left messy. Use time to clean.  
After hurting a sibling, serve that person or do his chores.
- ❖ Model good behavior.
- ❖ Be consistent. Stick to rules.
- ❖ Follow through quickly with consequences.
- ❖ Praise and encourage correct behavior.
- ❖ Pray and express love after discipline is carried out.

## SAMPLE CONSEQUENCES (for cheating)

- ❖ Confession.
- ❖ Pray together for forgiveness.
- ❖ Explain disappointment and trust issues.
- ❖ Extra project assigned as restitution.