

Parenting with Discipline and Responsibility

Parenting is best done with discipline and responsibility. Everyone knows this. Good parenting has several dimensions. There is a lot of information available on the topic. Some of this information may also be conflicting. Hence, several basic questions, popping up in the minds of young parents, need answering -

Q. 1: Is disciplining children good?

A. 1: This is perhaps the most basic doubt in the minds of young parents. Some people feel disciplining children is good. Some also feel that children should not be disciplined as it restricts their natural patterns of growth.

Remember, discipline is an act of love. Love implies that you are genuinely interested in someone's growth and welfare. Disciplining children is necessary because as parents if you do not teach them discipline, they would go out in the world unprepared. The tough competitive world is not going to relent and change its ways for your children when they go out into it. Learning discipline at a later stage in life is difficult. Chances are that your children may come back and blame you for not teaching them discipline, when there was still time for them to learn it.

Q. 2: Do we subconsciously follow any specific patterns of parenting?

A. 2: Yes we do. As human beings, the most precious time of our lives is childhood and it leaves lasting impressions on our minds. There are heavy chances that as parents we repeat the same patterns of parenting as given to us by our parents in our childhood. So, be careful. If you have seen bad times as a child, you do tend to repeat that with your children. Looking at your own self with responsibility helps you see the troubled areas and avoid them.

Q. 3: What is the best way to discipline children?

A. 3: The best way to discipline children is to behave in a disciplined way in front of them. Children learn best from example. If you wish to teach them something, the best way to do it is to become a follower and practitioner of that particular thing yourself. Parents are the first role models for children. Parents also leave a lasting impression on children. Good parenting primarily means becoming what you wish your children to develop into. If you wish them to become responsible and disciplined adults, become so yourself first.

Q. 4: Is there any golden rule to parenting?

A. 4: If there is any golden rule to parenting, it is just one - treat your children as individuals, and never as someone inferior to yourself. Some parents treat their children as toys. Right from the infant-hood until they turn into adults, children should be treated as individuals, because that is exactly what they are. Children are new human beings with completely separate identity than yours. Yet, they are absolutely dependent upon you. As parents, you need to respect that.

Parenting is a never-ending task. Once you start it, it just goes on...and on. You cannot ever, finally let go of your responsibilities as parents, no matter how old your children become. Therefore, it makes sense to do the parenting effort with responsibility and discipline.

Author: Neena Dayal

Copyright: WordPep™