

Childcare 101

A mother – noun

“A woman in relation to her child or children”

To mother – verb

“Bring up a child with care and affection”

A father – noun

“A man in relation to his child or children”

To father – verb

“Cause a pregnancy resulting in the birth of a child”

A child – noun

“A young human being below the legal age of majority, or a son or daughter of any age.”

To child... does not make any sense. It is not an action, it is a state of being.

1 John 3:1a (MSG)

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it – we’re called children of God! That’s who we really are.

Matthew 18:1-5 (MSG)

...the disciples came to Jesus asking, “Who gets the highest rank in God’s kingdom?” For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, “I’m telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you’re not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God’s kingdom. What’s more, when you receive the childlike on my account, it’s the same as receiving me.”

7 Basic Needs Of A Child

1. Security

Food, Clothing, and Shelter

Matthew 6:25-33 (ESV)

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Philippians 4:19-20 (MSG)

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the *glory* that pours from Jesus. Our God and Father abounds in *glory* that just pours out into eternity. Yes.

2. Stability

Children and families should be part of larger units to give them a sense of belonging, tradition, and cultural continuity.

Psalms 68:6a (NIV)

God sets the lonely, or solitary in families.

Psalms 133:1-3 (TLB)

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head and ran down onto his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew on Mount Hermon, on the mountains of Israel. And God has pronounced this eternal blessing on Jerusalem, even life forevermore.

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (MSG)

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

Hebrews 10:24-25a (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...

Ephesians 3:10-13 (MSG)

Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels! All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble...get you down. Be proud!

3. Consistency

We, as children need consistency. We need to know that important values will stay consistent. Our culture is constantly in a state of flux, but God, and His values will never change.

Malachi 3:6 (TLB)

For I am the Lord – I do not change. That is why you are not already utterly destroyed, for my mercy endures forever.

Psalms 102:27 (NIV)

But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

“God is unchanging in His existence. There has never been a time when God was not. There will never be a time when He will cease to be... His nature is infinite, never evolving, never diminishing, nor improving. All that He is today, He has always been, and forever will be. He cannot change for the better, because He is already perfect. Because He is perfect, He cannot change for the worse. If He did, He would cease from being perfect and from being God. He is completely

uninfluenced by any external element. His power can never diminish and His *glory* will never fade. His existence never changes.” – Brian Moore

4. Emotional Support

Words and actions should encourage a child’s trust, respect, and confidence.

Luke 2:52 (NIV)

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Psalms 139:1-18 (MSG)

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I’m an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I’m never out of your sight. You know everything I’m going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you’re there, then up ahead and you’re there, too – your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful – I can’t take it all in! Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you’re there! If I go underground, you’re there! If I flew on morning’s wings to the far western horizon, You’d find me in a minute – you’re already there waiting! Then I said to myself, “Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I’m immersed in the light! It’s a fact: darkness isn’t dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they’re all the same to you. Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God – you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration – what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me

grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Your thoughts – how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them! I couldn't even begin to count them – any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

5. Structure

Rules, Boundaries, and Limits

John 10:10 (ESV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 8:32 (MSG)

Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.

Psalms 16:5-6 (NIV)

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

6. Education

Providing both academic and life-lessons

Methodology – the process of teaching

Isaiah 28:10 (NLT)

He tells us everything over and over – one line at a time, one line at a time, a little here, and a little there!

Tools – what He uses to teach us

His Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (MSG)

There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful

one way or another – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

Experience and examples in and around your life

Proverbs 6:6-11 (TLB)

Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy fellow. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no king to make them work, yet they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you – all you do is sleep. When will you wake up? ‘Let me sleep a little longer!’ Sure, just a little more! And as you sleep, poverty creeps upon you like a robber and destroys you; want attacks you in full armor.

Job 33:14-18 (TLB)

For God speaks again and again, in dreams, in visions of the night when deep sleep falls on men as they lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that and gives them wisdom and instruction, causing them to change their minds, and keeping them from pride, and warning them of the penalties of sin, and keeping them from falling into some trap.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:7 (ESV)

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you.

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

The Holy Spirit

John 14:26 (ESV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

7. Love

Saying and showing you love your child can overcome almost any parenting mistake we might make.

So, just how much does God love you and me?

John 3:16-17 (MSG)

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

Romans 5:6-8 (MSG)

Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

1 John 3:1a (MSG)

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