

TUHFAH EDUCATION

PARENTING GUIDE



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INTRODUCTION

It is essential to try our utmost in ensuring that our children have the best possible upbringing (tarbiyah). The importance of tarbiyah is highlighted in the Holy Qur'an and the Prophetic teachings.

Almighty Allah mentions: “O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones.” (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6)

He also mentions: “And enjoin prayer upon your family and be steadfast in observing it.” (Surah Taha 20:132)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock. The ruler is a shepherd and is responsible for his subjects; a man is a shepherd over his family and is responsible for them; a woman is a shepherd in her husband's house and is responsible for her household; a servant is a shepherd over his master's wealth and is responsible for it; and a man is a shepherd over his father's wealth and is responsible for it. Indeed, each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be held accountable for his flock” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 893)

He ﷺ also taught: “It is sufficient sin for a person that he neglects those whom he is responsible to provide for.” (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 1694)

Imam al-Ghazzali mentions: “Know that the path in nurturing children is among the most important and most emphasised matters.” (Iḥyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn)

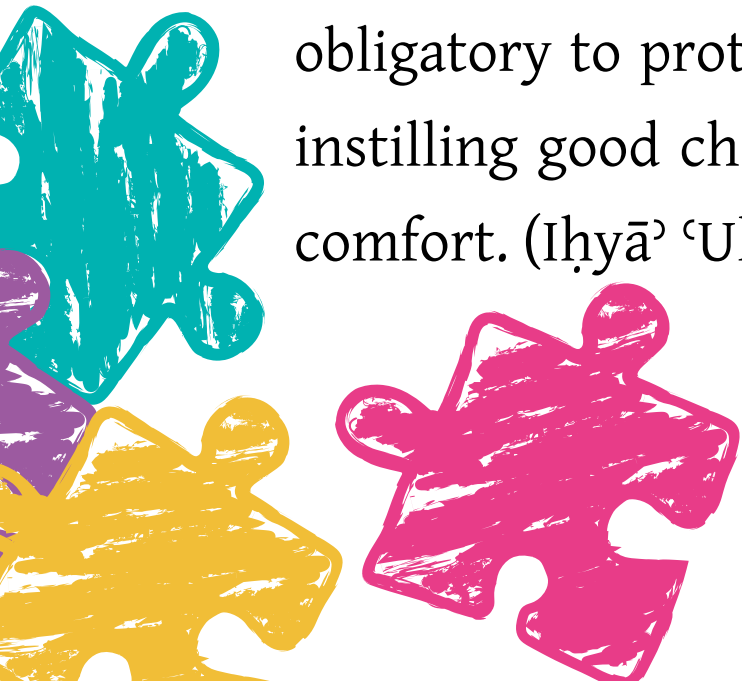


Children are a trust placed in the care of their parents. Their hearts are pure, unmarked, and receptive, like untouched gems. Whatever they are taught becomes engraved upon them, and whatever direction they are guided towards becomes the path they walk. (Iḥyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn)

If they are raised upon goodness and sound teaching, they will grow to be successful in this world and the next and their parents, teachers, and mentors will share in their reward. But if they are left neglected, they become vulnerable and lost, and the blame falls upon those who were responsible for their upbringing. (Iḥyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn)

Hafidh Ibn al-Qayyim RA mentions: “Some scholars mention that Allah will question the parent about their child on the Day of Judgment before questioning the child about the parent, because just as the parent has a right over the child, the child also has a right over the parent.” Allah mentions: “We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents...” (Surah Al-‘Ankabut 29:8) He also mentions: “O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones...” (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6)(Tuḥfat al-Mawdūd)

This reflects the seriousness of the parental role. Just as a parent would never allow a child near the fire of this world, it is even more obligatory to protect them from the Fire of the Hereafter. This is achieved by teaching them faith, disciplining them with wisdom, instilling good character, protecting them from harmful influences, and avoiding raising them in a life of indulgence or excessive comfort. (Iḥyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn)



Choosing the Spouse Based on Piety and Faith

1

Marriage is one of the most significant decisions a person will ever make and the foundation of a righteous family begins with choosing the right spouse. The Prophet ﷺ guided us to prioritise faith and character above all other qualities.

Abu Hurayrah (RA) mentioned, The Prophet ﷺ said: **“A woman is married for four reasons: for her wealth, for her lineage, for her beauty, or for her religion. So, choose the one who is religious, and you will prosper.”** (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, 5090)

Supplicate For Them (Dua)

2

Raising righteous children is one of the greatest responsibilities and blessings a parent can receive. However, no one can succeed in this without the permission and help of Almighty Allah.

For this reason, parents should make du‘ā’ for righteous children even before they have them, and continue to pray for them throughout their lives. A sincere du‘ā’, made with conviction and proper etiquette, can change a person’s destiny and bring great blessings.

The Prophet ﷺ mentioned that the du‘ā’ of a parent for their child is never rejected (Tirmidhī, 2029).



Lead By Example

3

Children learn far more from what they see than from what they hear. They closely watch their parents and elders, copying their habits, manners, and behaviour. This is why the Prophet ﷺ and the righteous scholars stressed that the most effective form of upbringing is to lead by example.

‘Amr ibn ‘Utbah once advised a man teaching his child: **“O Abū ‘Abd al-Samad, begin by correcting yourself, for their faults often come from your faults. Whatever you do well, they will see as good, and whatever you neglect, they will see as unimportant. Teach them the Book of Allah, but do not make it so heavy that they become bored, nor be so relaxed that they abandon it.”**

Build Love

4

Love is the foundation of every strong and faithful family. Show love to your family, and make them love you in return by being a caring parent and a gentle spouse.

The Prophet ﷺ embodied gentleness and affection more perfectly than anyone. He said: **“The best of you are those who are best to their families, and I am the best of you to my family.”** (Sunan al-Tirmidhī, 4269)



5

Value Them

Every child longs to feel valued, to know that their words, emotions, and presence matter. When children feel respected and acknowledged, they grow in confidence, trust, and sincerity.

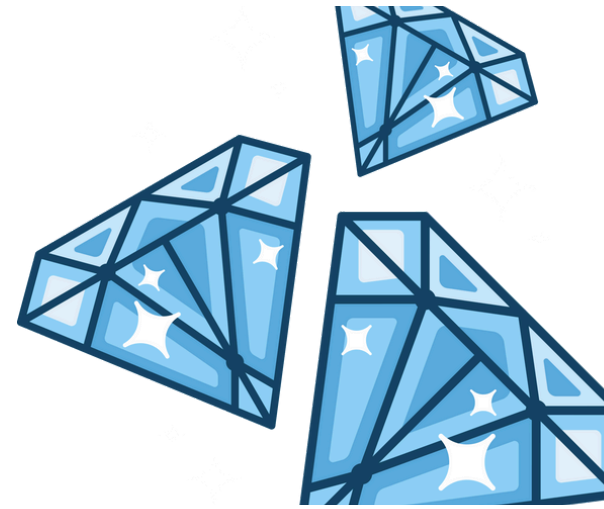
‘Umar (RA) once judged a case between a father and son. The father complained about his son’s disobedience, but the son asked:

“O Commander of the Believers, does the child not also have rights over his father?”

‘Umar replied that indeed the child does have rights; they include:

- A righteous mother,
- A good name, and
- Teaching the child the Holy Qur’an.

The boy responded that his father had failed in all three. ‘Umar (RA) then turned to the father and said: **“You came to me complaining about your son’s disobedience, yet you disobeyed him before he disobeyed you, and wronged him before he wronged you.”** This powerful statement teaches that valuing our children begins before their birth, in the choices parents make, the name they grant the child and the example they set.



6

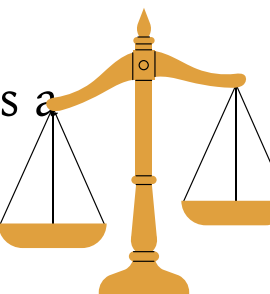
Be Just and Fair

The story of Prophet Yūsuf (peace be upon him) teaches us one of the most vital lessons in parenting - the importance of fairness and justice between children. Parents must not give their children any reason to feel jealousy or resentment toward one another. Favouritism, whether through words, gifts, or attention plants the seeds of rivalry and division.

Even though Prophet Ya‘qūb (peace be upon him) never acted unjustly, his sons perceived that their father loved Yūsuf and Binyamīn more, which led to envy and ultimately to a grievous act. Allah records their conversation:

“Indeed, Yūsuf and his brother are more beloved to our father than we, while we are a clan. Indeed, our father is in clear error. Kill Yusuf or cast him out to some land, so that the attention of your father may be only for you (as a group).” (Sūrah Yūsuf, 12:8–9)

Parents must therefore ensure equal treatment in affection, gifts, and care, even in the smallest matters. The Prophet ﷺ said that such favouritism is a form of injustice.



7

Educate Them Whilst They Are Young; Academically and Practically

From a very early age, start sowing the seeds of faith and the oneness of Almighty Allah within them. Primarily, mothers should instil this even while the child is being breastfed by repeatedly reciting the words declaring the oneness of Allah. This should continue during infancy and beyond, as the repetition of these sacred words builds the heart of the child upon tawḥīd.

Ibn ‘Abbās (RA) mentioned that the Prophet ﷺ said: **“Teach your children first the words: ‘There is no god but Allah,’ and instruct them to say ‘There is no god but Allah’ at the time of death.”** (Shu‘ab al-’Īmān, 8282)

Make Them Responsible

8

It is important to make the child responsible of their matters and others according to age. Making them responsible is not against love, rather it confirms the love. Yes, don’t burden them with something which is not yet in their capability but don’t keep them away from all responsibilities until a very late age as well.

Allah the Almighty says: **“And every person’s deeds We have bound to his neck, and We will bring forth for him on the Day of Resurrection a record which he will find laid open. (It will be said,) ‘Read your record. Sufficient is yourself against you this Day as a reckoner.”** (Surat al-Isrā’, 17:13–14) This passage reminds believers that true responsibility lies in personal accountability before Allah, where no one can bear the burden of another.



Good Companionship

It is essential to ensure that children have good companionship. They need friends and social interaction, but parents should strive to place them in environments where they are more likely to find righteous and positive friends.

From time to time, and in a manner appropriate to their age, allow them to attend gatherings of pious individuals. Such experiences can gradually instill good habits and spiritual awareness in their hearts. However, care must be taken not to overwhelm them; forcing them into settings they find tedious may cause a reluctance to religious gatherings or the company of the pious later in life.

Abū Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **“A person follows the religion of his close friend, so let each one of you look at whom he befriends.”** (Sunan Abī Dāwūd, 4835)

FRIENDS



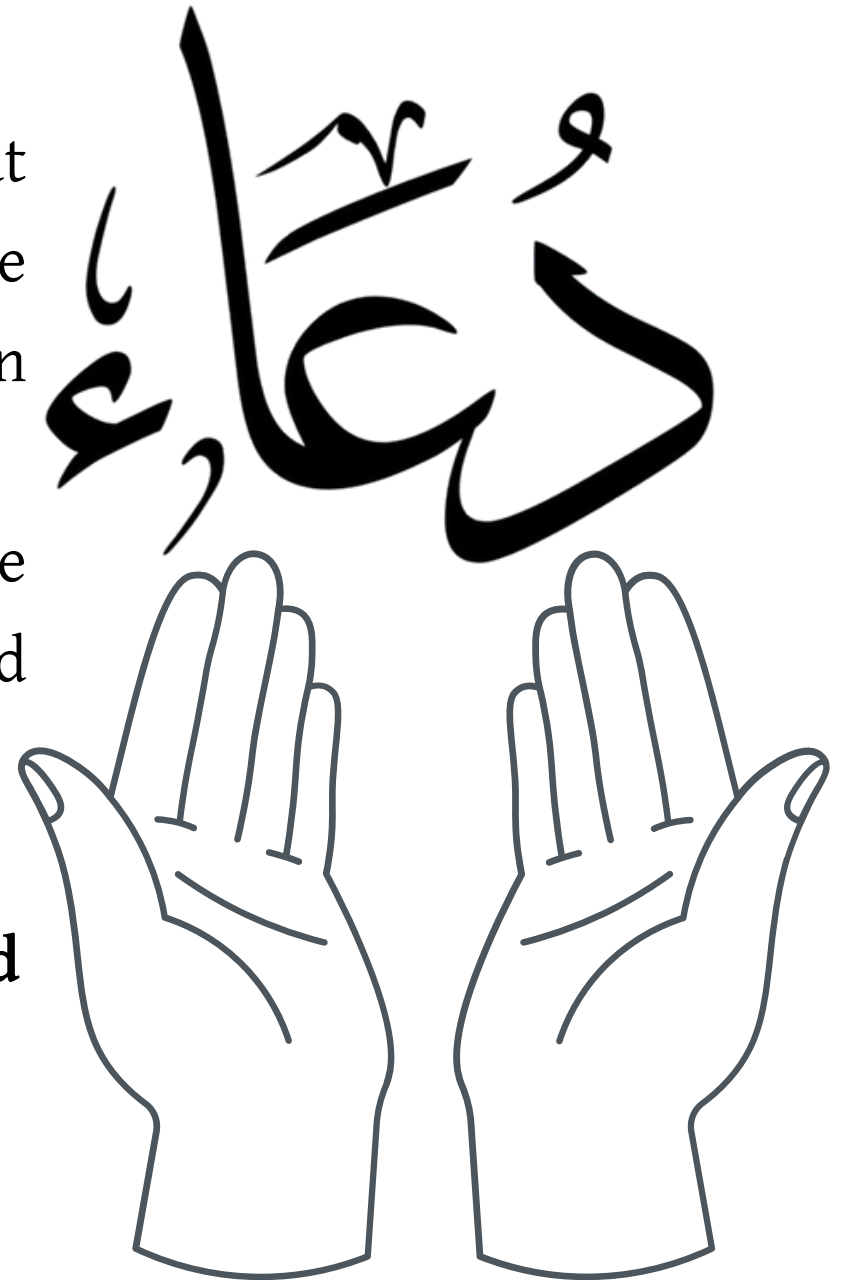
CONCLUSION

Raising children is among the greatest trusts that Allah places upon parents. It requires patience, wisdom, compassion, and consistency. Every moment of guidance, every correction made with gentleness, and every opportunity given for good companionship contributes to building a child who loves Allah, follows His Messenger ﷺ, and benefits the people around them.

Parents must remember that their words and actions are the most powerful form of teaching. What children see from their parents leaves a deeper mark than what they are told. Thus, the most effective way to nurture righteous children is to strive to be righteous ourselves in prayer, in manners, and in the way we deal with others.

Let us, therefore, seek Allah's help in fulfilling this trust, and never feel that our efforts are insignificant. Every du'ā' made, every small act of nurturing, and every moment of patience is recorded and rewarded by Allah.

May Allah bless our children with righteousness, make them a source of joy for their parents, and grant all families love, harmony, and steadfastness upon His obedience.





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