

ENGAGE YOUR FAITH BY...

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Ask God to give you the strength to pause before reacting when your child surprises you with a new word or phrase. Ask that you would be a representation of Christ's grace and mercy to your child and for discernment in when difficult disciplinary action is the right answer. Let him show you areas in your own life that need to be adjusted so that you can be the role model that your child needs. Draw close to Him and ask Him to equip you with all of the patience, wisdom, joy and love required to raise a child with a pure heart.

RESOURCES...

> Web

www.focusonthefamily.com • Covert Anger in Your Child
www.raisingchildren.net.au • Swearing: School-age Children
www.verywellfamily.com • Effective Ways to Discipline a Child for Swearing

> Books

The Story of Me by Stan and Brenna Jones
Before I Was Born by Carolyn Nystrom
I Said No by Sandra L. Caron, Ph. D.



MOUNTAINPARK
CHURCH

PARENTING MATTERS

PURITY

— KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE —

LIFE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE...

Your child is past the stage of exploring their body parts and the difference between boy parts and girl parts and for a blessed period of time, sexuality is not on the forefront of their minds. However, they are being exposed to a new world of language, gestures and visual images as they begin school and become more adept at navigating technology.

YOU PARENT THEM WELL WHEN YOU...

KNOW:

YouTube is a blessing and a curse. You can learn almost anything, listen to great music and have access to millions of videos. But, that also means your child has access to millions of videos, and not all are appropriate for the eyes and ears of a 5-8 year old. If your child has access to a tablet or smart TV, research the filters available to you. Filters are not foolproof but do add an extra layer of protection. Also, be sure to clearly communicate with your child what kinds of things are okay for them to watch and what are not. Let them know that if they accidentally come across something inappropriate to let you know right away.

EXPECT:

As your child spreads their wings and meets new kids at school, they will learn some new words (and gestures) that you'll wish they hadn't. The key here is not to freak out the first time you hear or see them. Calmly explain to your child that there are some words people use that are off limits to them. It is perfectly okay for a child to know certain words exist, but that they are not allowed to use them. Don't make a big deal out of the initial use of these words or gestures. If your child senses they are a hot button for you, they are more likely to use them in times of anger, or when wanting your attention.

PREPARE:

There will be times when your child will break rules. They may get angry at a friend and use inappropriate words or unkind language. They may get mad at you and show you their middle finger. Although it is hard not to overreact in those moments, it is easier to stay calm if you have planned ahead. Communicate with your spouse and have a united front on the consequences. It is okay for your child to see that you are disappointed, but do your best to keep your calm as you enforce your house rules.

TALK:

Honest and open communication is best. If you are guilty of using words you don't want your child to use, be upfront with them about it. Encourage them to let you know when they accidentally see inappropriate content or hear words or phrases they aren't sure about. Your ultimate goal is for them to feel comfortable coming to you and talking about hard topics. If they aren't comfortable coming to you about something as simple as inappropriate language, chances are slim that they will come to you with questions about sex, and will instead choose to learn from friends on the playground.

NEXT STEPS ARE...

Preemptive Conversations

Precautionary

Start expecting respectful language in your home at a young age. Correcting simpler phrases like, "oh my God", will set a foundation for how they are to speak about others. If you don't expect your child to speak respectfully about our Creator, it is hard to mandate respectful talk toward others. Communicate that in your house you expect that everyone to talk to and about others with respect. That doesn't mean you can't share frustrations and even anger about others, but sharing those feelings doesn't require using hurtful language. The best way to influence your kids is through modeling this yourself.

Reactionary

Your child is human, just the same as you. There will be times they slip up and you will have to impose consequences for poor choices. It is absolutely okay, and encouraged, to be firm and intolerant of language that is either inappropriate or disrespectful of others. Remind your child that even Jesus got angry, and that anger isn't a sin. The sin comes in how we respond to our anger. After your child has an opportunity to calm down, talk through what led to their anger and other ways they might have responded. Impose any consequences that your family has set for this behavior, while still acknowledging that we all slip up. The good news is through God's forgiveness we have the opportunity to be forgiven and try again next time.

A Special Note

It is always important to remind your child that their body is theirs. No one has permission to touch them in areas that are private or make them feel uncomfortable. If anyone does, they should tell you immediately. If someone, even a familiar loved one, makes them feel uncomfortable or asks them to keep it a secret, that is a secret never to be kept and they should let you know right away. They will never be in trouble for the choices another person makes.