



FAIRNESS MATTERS MOST,

AND YOUR



DIFFERENCES GET NOTICED,



"SOUNDS LIKE FUN!"





ENFORCE THE LAW IN EVERY SITUATION.

Rules are rules. Gifts should be distributed equally. Consequences should be consistent. Your child has now become a combination of CSI, Law & Order, Nancy Drew, and Barney Fife. If you deviate from the guidelines of fairness and do something like give one kid a treat and not another, you will find yourself called out for unfairness.

LIFE SHOULD BE FAIR, IT'S OKAY THAT PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT.

Kids begin to notice (some for the first time) that "not everyone is like me." Until now, everyone was on equal footing. Now, they see that some kids are more athletic, some are better artists, some kids are blond and some kids are brown-skinned. Expect a new set of adjectives as they try to describe their world to you.

BEAUTIFUL BLEND OF CAPABLE AND DEPENDENT.

Kids are not especially needy. But they are still kids! They are impressionable, enthusiastic, eager, and excited about what you're excited about. You still set the schedule, and if it sounds like fun to you, you can convince them that it is really fun!



YOUR ROLE IS TO ENGAGE THEIR INTERESTS

A child develops skills and competencies that equip their future. The way a child resolves the "Do I have" questions of these phases provides them with critical knowledge and resources. It shapes their perception of personal ability, comparative value, and resilience. Through these phases, kids shift from wanting to be seen by adults to wanting to by seen by adults and peers. The best way to resolve a kid's relational questions is to engage their interests.

THINKS	LIKE
A SCIEN	TIST

You help them learn when you...

GIVE CONCRETE EXAMPLES.

WANTS TO KNOW, "DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?"

When you demonstrate interest in a kid's progress, kids...

IMPROVE THEIR ABILITIES.

DO I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

A kid wants to know how their abilities compare with their peers. When you praise a kid's persistence and efforts, kids...

BROADEN COMPETENCE.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR KID GROW IN WISDOM, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP.

When you ENGAGE your child's interests, you help them...

TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER. EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY.

Practically speaking, that means every week you have an opportunity to...

CONNECT WITH A FAITH COMMUNITY. PRAY TOGETHER. READ BIBLE STORIES AND ANSWER FAITH QUESTIONS.

REPEAT BASIC TRUTHS LIKE:

"I can trust God no matter what." "I need to make the wise choice." "I should treat others the way I want to be treated."

You can do these things by taking advantage of the time you already spend together.

MORNING TIME	DRIVE TIME	MEAL TIME	BED TIME
ВЕ А СОАСН.	BE A FRIEND.	BE A TEACHER.	BE A COUNSELOR.
You instill purpose when you start the day with encouraging words.	You interpret life during informal conversation as you travel.	You establish values with intentional conversation while you eat together.	You strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.



YOUR KID IS CHANGING...

PHYSICALLY

- » Loses incisor teeth (6-8 years)
- » Draws a person with a body
- » Needs 10-12 hours of sleep each night

MENTALLY

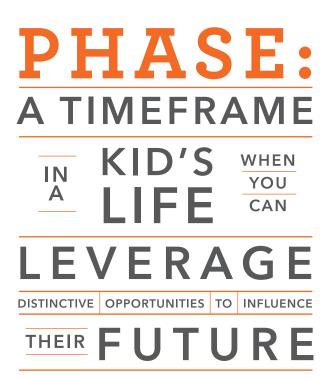
- » Can focus on one activity for 5-15 minutes
- » Beginning to understand ironic humor and tell simple jokes
- » Knows the difference between need vs. want and real vs. pretend
- » Doesn't logically interpret cause and effect

RELATIONALLY

- » Wants to please and help others
- » Has a hard time asking for help
- » Needs guidance taking turns and losing well

EMOTIONALLY

- » May display extreme emotions
- » Tends to be optimistic
- » Needs to experience moderate challenges and success
- » Highly sensitive to harsh criticism, tone, and body language





YOU HAVE 572 WEEKS AND COUNTING...

IT'S JUST A PHASE



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