

- 1 **Creating Kids of Character**
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- 2 **GOALS for tonight**
 - ▣ What Is Character?
 - ▣ Where Is Character Built?
 - ▣ Tips for Parents
 - ▣ Talking with Your Kids
 - ▣ Activities that Build Character

- 3 **Webster defines character as...**
 - ▣ ...the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual
 - ▣ ...the way someone thinks, feels, & behaves:
someone's personality

- 4 **Many traits make up one's character**
 - ▣ Alertness
 - ▣ Attentiveness
 - ▣ Availability
 - ▣ Benevolence
 - ▣ Boldness
 - ▣ Cautiousness
 - ▣ Compassion
 - ▣ Contentment
 - ▣ Creativity
 - ▣ Decisiveness
 - ▣ Deference
 - ▣ Dependability
 - ▣ Determination
 - ▣ Diligence
 - ▣ Discernment
 - ▣ Discretion

- ▣ Endurance
- ▣ Enthusiasm
- ▣ Faith
- ▣ Flexibility
- ▣ Forgiveness
- ▣ Generosity
- ▣ Gentleness
- ▣ Gratefulness
- ▣ Honor
- ▣ Humility
- ▣ Initiative
- ▣ Joyfulness
- ▣ Justice
- ▣ Loyalty
- ▣ Meekness
- ▣ Obedience
- ▣ Orderliness
- ▣ Persuasiveness
- ▣ Punctuality
- ▣ Resourcefulness
- ▣ Responsibility
- ▣ Security
- ▣ Self-Control
- ▣ Sensitivity
- ▣ Sincerity
- ▣ Thoroughness
- ▣ Thriftiness
- ▣ Tolerance
- ▣ Truthfulness
- ▣ Virtue
- ▣ Wisdom

5 **The Word on character**

- ▣ Galatians 5:22a: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-

control

- 6 **God calls parents to teach their kids character**
 - ▣ Proverbs 22:6: Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.
- 7 **We honor and glorify God by the character we display**
 - ▣ Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- 8 **At the heart of character-building...**
 - ▣ Creating a kid of character begins at home!
- 9 **Tips to raise “totally awesome” kids**
 - ▣ Encouragement is the fuel for a healthy sense of self-worth.
 - ▣ Demonstrate unconditional love.
 - ▣ Avoid comparisons.
 - ▣ Separate the incident from the individual.
 - ▣ Recognize effort and celebrate progress.
 - ▣ Avoid reliving past failures.

Taken from www.calvaryripon.org/home/180011466/180011466/180168483/How%20to%20raise%20totally%20awesome%20kids.pdf
- 10 **Character is caught, not taught**
 - ▣ “Do as I say, not as I do”?

Rather

 - ▣ *As you live out godly character before your kids, they’ll naturally get it more than if you just tell them what it’s supposed to look like.*
- 11 **Teach by example**

“Teach by example. Model what you desire. For our children to develop character and integrity, they must first see the integrity

of our character.”

- 12 **As parents**
- ❑ Stay close to God.
 - ❑ Take a close inventory of your heart and motivations on a regular basis.
 - ❑ Journal to keep connected with what is motivating you.
 - ❑ Talk with your spouse or a trusted friend about your spiritual and emotional struggles.
 - ❑ Set a good example through your own behavior and actions.
 - ❑ Set and communicate high standards and clear expectations.
 - ❑ Coach children how to be responsible and kind.
 - ❑ Use God’s Word and other literature to reinforce the values of strong character.
- 13 **Setting expectations at home**
- 14 **CHORES: they are good!**
- ❑ Giving kids chores can...
 - ❑ ...build self-esteem.
 - ❑ ...teach the importance of completing an assigned job.
 - ❑ ...emphasize the value of keeping things clean & organized.
 - ❑ ...set a pattern of helping around the house.
 - ❑ ...give him a sense of being part of the household “team.”
- 15 **Chores by ages**
- ❑ Some chores a 5- to 7-year-old can do:
 - ❑ Sweep floors
 - ❑ Make her bed
 - ❑ Clean her room
 - ❑ Hang up her towel
 - ❑ Feed pets
 - ❑ Set the table
 - ❑ Help clear the dishes after a meal
- 16 **Chores by ages**
- ❑ Some chores an 8- to 10-year-old can do:

- ▣ Load the dishwasher
- ▣ Put away groceries
- ▣ Make his own breakfast, lunch, and snack
- ▣ Do laundry
- ▣ Walk the dog
- ▣ Do yardwork
- ▣ Help make dinner

17 **What expectations do you have in your family?**

18

“Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don’t listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won’t tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.”

~Catherine Wallace, Blogger

19 **Talk often with your kids**

- ▣ Give meaningful praise to your kids
- ▣ Recognize character strength in others
- ▣ Engage in conversations that matter
 - ▣ It takes time to have a character conversation

20 **25 ways to ask “how was school today?”**

▣ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today_b_5738338.html

▣ See handout

21 **Activity vs. lecture**

▣ www.momentsaday.com/100-kids-activities-to-build-character/

22 **Other tips to instill Character**

- ▣ Nurture empathy in your child.
- ▣ Encourage him to lift up others around him and never tear anyone down.
- ▣ Teach her to volunteer.

- ❑ Don't reward him for every good behavior or act of kindness.
- ❑ <http://childparenting.about.com/od/behaviordiscipline/a/How-To-Raise-A-Good-Child.htm>
- ❑ Treat him with kindness and respect.
- ❑ Don't be shy about disciplining your child.
- ❑ Teach her how to be thankful.
- ❑ Teach him good manners.

23 **Advice from other parents...**

- ❑ If mealtimes at night is difficult, eat breakfast together
- ❑ Do devotions in the car (encourage them to say a prayer for the day)
- ❑ Pray for your child's future spouse
- ❑ Praise the "little stuff"
- ❑ Spontaneously help your child (such as with a chore)
- ❑ "The Five Love Languages of Children" by Gary Chapman
 - ❑ Take the quiz! What is your child's Love Language?
 - ❑ fivelovelanguages-m0.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2012/02/1456_5LoveLanguagesofChildren_Final.pdf

24 **Resources**

- The Character Connection
 - Subscribe to email or newsletter:
 - www.momentsaday.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f58b2d78c0277e2727625de5b&id=021755ecf2
- How to Raise Totally Awesome Kids by Dr. Chuck Borsellino & Jenni Borsellino
- "Lists to Live By" Compiled by Alice Gray, Steve Stephens, John Van Diest
 - Condensed from "How to Raise Totally Awesome Kids" by Dr. Chuck and Jenni Borsellino
- www.character-training.com/blog/list-of-character-traits
- www.Values.com
- www.childparenting.about.com/od/behaviordiscipline/a/How-To-Raise-A-Good-Child.htm
- www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/

character-development/television-an-obstacle-to-building-character

- Webster's Dictionary
- www.momentsaday.com/100-kids-activities-to-build-character/
- www.huffingtonpost.com/liz-evans/25-ways-to-ask-your-kids-so-how-was-school-today-without-asking-them-so-how-was-school-today_b_5738338.html
- www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/part6.html
- www.calvaryripon.org/home/180011466/180011466/180168483/How%20to%20raise%20totally%20awesome%20kids.pdf
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQZ5azy0HoU
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=htgPh3DalmM