

8 Tactics to Up Your Dad Game

(These tactics are derived from the text, *Let the Children Come Along the Virtuous Way*. GFInt'l • ISBN-10 1883035031)

(Wives: please encourage and support your husband in this. ☺ Men aren't the best at understanding how to shepherd the hearts of children.)

The best quality measurement for any father-child relationship is the level of trust the child has in the father. This is especially true of our relationship with our Heavenly Father It's not the time I spend, it's the quality of my RELATIONSHIP with my children.

1. Cultivate a sense of family identity. A) Verbally encourage my children. When I'm excited about the family, the children are excited. "This is a great family!" B) Know where I'm going with my family identity. What do we want to be known for as a family? Convey it talk. Talk it. Collaborate on it. Celebrate it.

2. Provide an ongoing demonstration of love for my wife. If I really love my children, I will give them the gift of confidence and security in their parents' relationship. Give my wife so much love it embarrasses the children!

3. Strive to understand and respect my child's private world. Stop what you're doing. Listen. Be there. Give them the confidence that they can share their treasures with you. You never know when you'll be invited in. Three worlds: A) Public. B) Personal. C) Private.

4. Give my children the freedom to fail. Failure is the first step to success; it builds wisdom. Children WILL fail; how will you respond? Children don't fear failing; they fear failing dad.

5. Be the biggest encourager of my family. Write little love notes to my children (lunchbox; backpack). My presence. My smile. Children need to know they have MY trust; give them opportunities to earn it. Create in them an HONEST trust in your leadership.

6. As a father, I must guard my tongue and my tone and learn to measure my response against the excitement on their faces. The more excited THEY are; the more excited I am!

7. I need to touch my children. Hold. Hug. Mom's arms are comforting; dad's arms are SECURITY. If you don't touch your children, someone else will. Always hold them; always.

8. If I am going to build a trusting relationship with my children, it must be built on God's Truth and not on man's wisdom. Bible. My children see God through ME. My children will trust GOD based on how they trust me.

Prov 23:15 "Son, give me your heart"

Prov 23:26 "(child) if YOUR heart is wise; MY heart will rejoice"

You're going to fail them sometimes. Remember to ask their forgiveness.

My relationship with my child is the precedent for their relationship with God. How am I doing with that?