

JUL 2003 EMAIL TEXT

From: "GFI admin" <admin@gfi-singapore.org>
Subject: July Mailer
Date: Tuesday, July 01, 2003 11:27 PM

Clear DayGreetings again. Another months is gone. 2003 is half done!

This month's mailer is a treat from another family who conducts classes with us and they appropriately remind us of how we as parents need to manage our time and the use of the FUNNEL concept. Many of us will share their struggle with TIME - TIME to stock take and if necessary make adjustments! On the funnel concept, many become 'peers' to their kids too early like when their children are toddlers while others never become friendly with their children even when their children are adults. Yes, it is a balance and the adjustments are on the parents - we will always remain as their parents, that respect must be earned by the parents and build into our children so that they know God. God chastises or disciplines those He loves!

This month's survey is on main concerns on bringing up children in Singapore, please take your time and vote. It is interesting to note that in last month's survey, parents get their information from all over - in a way depicting God's creativity! We believe that only one thing will strengthen and accompany our children throughout life - a relationship with Jesus, let's model our lives for them to have that relationship with God.

Classes are coming up in July and August, do visit the website for details or drop a note to us if you or have anyone interested :

1 in Orcahrd - GKGW.
1 in Simei (RC) - community version.
1 for St. Stephens - community version.

We continue to invite you to feedback on anything because if you have doubts and never drop us a note, we will never know. Of course, if you have any happy moments you would like to share, drop us a note.

Verse of the month for us: Phil 4:8!

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint Isaiah 40:31

Greetings from Jeremy and Suan Ai

log on www.gfi-singapore.org for parenting resource

TIME

Time for activities:

1st baby: You take your infant to baby gymnastics, music, art and abacas classes.

2nd baby: You take your infant to baby gymnastics.

3rd baby: You take your infant to the supermarket and have the older ones entertain him.

TIME

When we were approached to write for the July mailer, our initial reaction was whether we have the TIME to write and what subject to write on. The subsequent inspiration was to touch on the essentiality of TIME in the parenting process.

Both of us are working parents with no live in 'Kakak' around. We know it made a whole world of difference with an extra pair of helping hands. The unpleasant past experiences with a live-in maid have made us do without a maid for past six years. Thank God for His grace and help that we manage through each day. Our home may not be sparkling clean but it is still neat and habitable! There are daily struggles of our hearts with work demands, housework, church ministry and children's homework and revision. All these put a lot of pressure in our time management. There is a tendency to get our two lovely boys to eat fast, hurry them to childcare and rush them to get their homework done. In all these 'hurry up' process, we make conscious efforts to impart Godly values in their young minds. We know that we cannot teach and train our children if we do not spend time with them and be with and for them. We need time to instruct, to impart values, knowledge and lessons of life, to play, touch and hug. Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 also indicates the essence and essentiality of time in training our children - 'These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.' When we are with our children, their little ears and eyes are also listening and observing us and thus, learning from us. When we spend time with them, we will also get to know their influences from outside of the family, example their school friends and have the opportunity to quickly stop any negative elements from taking shape into their lives.

It was so disheartening to read from The Straits Times last week that one of the teens only talk to his parents when he needs money or a consent form signed. Both his parents were too occupied with their careers to truly communicate with him. This is one example of his peers shaping his values as he confides more with his friends than his family members. On the other hand, there was another encouraging article on Mr. Chan Soo Sen's children communicating with their parents to the level of friendship. Mr. Chan's parenting style was disciplinary in the early years and he let go as the children grew up. Remember the **FUNNEL** we learnt during our classes?

The recent articles from the newspaper testified that TIME is a crucial factor in successful and fulfilling parenting. Most of us know in our minds that our family matters most but do we from our hearts act to truly give time to our children and also our spouse? Let's remind each other to work hard on it!

Warmest Regards,
Bobby & Siew Fan.