

Facing tough times Part 2

To help each child be the best person he or she can be, parental guidance is needed to establish a set of morals and values for recognising right from wrong.

How to do this? We have been noting Dr Ginsburg's seven C's. Here are four more.

First, a basic step is to recognise how to build CHARACTER. This involves developing a caring attitude towards others, helping children avoid hateful or “put down” statements.

So let's show children that the world can be a better place because they are in it. Their positive contribution to life should be enhanced when parents model good-will towards others through generosity, compassion, and respect.

Second, we must recognise, nevertheless, that – especially for children – handling stress in life can be difficult. It is here that parents who want to model positive COPING mechanisms will avoid condemning children for unexpected negative behaviour.

Third, COMPETENT parents, therefore, will see that discipline should be about *teaching*, not punishment or an overbearing attitude.

An important discipline to teach is to help our children see that their actions will always have consequences. So when they learn to have CONFIDENCE in appropriate behaviour, this will be character development at its best.

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Bring children up “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” Ephesians 6.4.

Ken Packer