

# Getting Them Ready

*Exploring the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in the Little Years*



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## INTRODUCTION

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.” PROVERBS 22:6 (KJV)

As parents , we have the authority and the privilege to shape the life of our child. This is a beautiful and serious task. Proverbs tells us three things we can treasure in our hearts as we begin this journey as mothers and teachers...

1. There is a “way” a child ought to go.
2. Our early training will produce a habit in our children from which they will not depart.
3. This training will take time. We may not see the promise come to pass.

If you train Good, True, and Beautiful things into your child through their education, there is a good

chance they will not depart from those things when they are old.

## GOOD BOOKS

"A children's book enjoyed only by children is not a good children's book." - CS LEWIS

In training young appetites we always want to keep in mind that what we give them now, shapes what they'll desire later on. A great children's book should be easily enjoyed by an adult.

1. A good children's book is orderly and purposeful. It can have a simple purpose, but it's never merely nonsensical.

Goodnight Gorilla is a simple, and almost wordless book. Yet it portrays order (the animals are put to bed in their own cages), reality (the care of the man for the animals), and is beautifully illustrated.

2. A good children's book reflects reality.

Good things happen for good guys, bad things happen for bad guys.

3. A good children's book is beautiful.

The language is appropriate, yet beautifully constructed. The illustrations are excellent and realistic. When we read our kids good books we give them an appreciation for good literature rather than tolerance for nonsense.

## GOOD MUSIC

"Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it." - ARISTOTLE

We want to direct our children's hearts towards what is beautiful, what is intelligent, what is orderly and purposeful so as to begin to teach them how to order their souls. This begins with the music we play for them and encourage them to enjoy.

Resources : The Story of the Orchestra by Robert Levine

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Providing simple yet teacher directed crafts and art projects for your children will prove helpful in a number of ways! Consider using the Book of Crafts for Junior Kindergarten by Memoria Press.

1. Crafts provide opportunity to follow instructions with a rewarding outcome.
2. Carefully chosen art projects allow children a window into the world of expression and a mind engaged in beautiful thoughts.
3. Arts and crafts alike build the fine motor skills of your child.
4. Arts and crafts direct a child's imagination.

## TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING

It's not your job to make learning fun 24/7. The key word here is "make". Some activities are just fun. Reading together is fun. Crafts are fun. But sometimes, it's not. A child resisting work is not a sign of your failure. It's an opportunity to instruct their soul that excellent things often require diligent work. The reward of excellence far outweighs momentary "fun".

1. Technology is a tool that, like all tools, should be understood before it can be applied. It's our encouragement that you educate yourself on how tech affects the minds and development of our littles.

Resources : The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch

2. Having a plan of action beforehand empowers you to stick to it. If you know your expectations/convictions for when and where and for how long—you won't doubt yourself.
3. Tech is tempting because it presents learning and engagement as an easy and fun way to gain knowledge—and it can be. But the foundational truth about education is that developing the soul takes work and lots of it. You will work and so will your child, and it's not always a "fun time." And that's okay.

Like all entertainment, tech can get away from us in ways that makes us feel overwhelmed. Tech isn't evil and it's not going away. Know what you think and how you want to engage with tech, and then be firm.

## CONTACT

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