

## Parental respect and child development in the Nation

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Becoming a parent has opened many new perspectives for us. Parenthood has also afforded us the many important responsibilities, privileges and blessings afforded all parents. With my new voice as a parent I would like to mention my feelings as to how we, as followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad should raise our children.

### CHILD REARING IN ISLAM

Our children, being an extension of ourselves and more importantly a link in the everlasting Nation of the Righteous, must be given the same freedom, justice, and equality that we ourselves expect and are striving to secure. Our children must not be oppressed by our narrow attitudes, lack of consideration, or laxness in our duties as a Muslim. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has done much in teaching we, His followers in the proper raising of our children. So we as Muslim parents must not resort to our former methods of child rearing which reflected our ignorance, rebelliousness and confusion. We should be able to see (Possibly in ourselves) that these former methods were not effective in achieving any of the goals that we as Muslims hold today. Rather the rearing of children in the

"dead world" was more or less rule by fear and might, and certainly not rule by intelligence. We as fearful parents nursed and nurtured fear in our offspring. But, all praise is due to Allah for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad who today is in our midst to remove from us that old fear that kept us and our children shackled from progress. We as Muslim parents need no longer use fear or "scare tactics" with our children. There should be no reason why a Muslim parent of today should not be somewhat informed concerning the basic physical and psychological growth and developmental processes of our offspring from conception to maturity. Indeed it is important that we with our knowledge deal with our children honestly, fairly and taking justly into consideration the many physical and emotional adjustments and their various manifestations experienced by a growing child.

Chastisement, when necessary, should be levied in this same frame of mind and should always be in accordance with the degree of the seriousness of the child's offense. Emotionally administered chastisement usually serves only to produce a nervous, untrusting child whereas strict, loving,

intelligent chastisement will produce trust, respect and obedience. We as civilized persons should most certainly never act savagely toward our children by performing such acts as loud screaming or unmerciful beating. Rather we should reason with our children, instilling in them always our Islamic values and our faith.

Our children have rights which must not be denied. And we as parents and followers of the Last Messenger of God have the great responsibility and privilege of providing our children with their rights and teaching them in the way that we have been taught. We must know ourselves and prevent ourselves from transferring our frustrations and and/or tensions to our children in the form of anger or short patience. We must constantly remember that we are striving to build a righteous nation. And most important of all we should pray often together as a family and ask Allah for the strength, foresight, insight and ability to raise our children strictly under the life-giving teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and thereby raise our children to be as they truly are: brightly jeweled stars reflecting the universal light of Allah and His Messenger, through we, the parent.