



October 2015

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



through excellence in
ministry to children.

Grow Your Kids' Talents and Gifts

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To reveal to your children the special talents he's given them.
2. To provide opportunities for your family members to develop their gifts.
3. To help your family members use their talents and gifts to God's glory.

As children reach different developmental milestones, they also begin to show signs of emerging abilities. God blesses each of us with talents such as in music, sports, and art. The New Testament says God also gives us special abilities known as spiritual gifts, such as serving, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy.

Children don't need to wait until they're older to use their talents and gifts. But they may need help discovering and applying those things. And as their abilities develop, kids gain confidence by becoming more competent at the various activities they enjoy.

Here are fill-in sentences to help your kids identify their talents and gifts.

- I feel great when people notice how well I _____.
- My friends would say one of my best qualities is _____.
- I get annoyed when I have to _____.
- If I had a free afternoon, I'd enjoy _____.
- If I could volunteer, I'd really like to _____.
- The two happiest times in my life are _____.
- One thing I do well without having to think about it is _____.
- People would be surprised to know that I _____.
- I feel like I help others when I _____.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Chart Your Course

Give family members each a sheet of paper. Have them divide the page into quarters by drawing a vertical line and a horizontal line that cross in the middle of the page.

- In the top left-hand corner, have family members write or draw one of their talents.
- In the top right-hand corner, have them write or draw whom that talent can serve.
- In the bottom left-hand corner, have them write or draw what they think they could do to develop that talent.
- In the bottom right-hand corner, have them write or draw an amazing thing God could do if they were to use that talent to serve him.

Share your papers. Then read aloud Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, and discuss the importance of using the talents God has given us.

Close in prayer: **Dear God, thank you for the talents and gifts you've given each of us. Please help us use them to serve you and others. Amen.**

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Discover and Celebrate Gifts

Finding and nurturing your children's gifts involves more than just signing them up for a full slate of activities and hoping for scholarships down the road. It's a lifelong process of encouraging kids to unlock their God-given potential, challenging them to explore activities or tasks that may seem intimidating at first, and reminding them to always put their gifts to good use. God doesn't want us to bury or waste our talents or spiritual gifts. Instead, he tells us to use them for other people through service. And by serving others, we're actually serving God. Use these ideas to help your children identify and use their special gifts.

I Spy a Talent Sit in a circle. Have family members look at the person to their right and think about that person's talents. After a few minutes, have people take turns sharing what talents they see in that person. Go around the circle counterclockwise so the person whose talents were just discussed speaks next. Then discuss what it's like to talk about others' talents and to hear about your own.

Touch Your Nose Play a game of Simon Says, giving instructions related to body parts. For example: "Simon says touch your nose. Wiggle your ears. Simon says blink your eyes. Stomp your feet." Afterward ask, "Why is each of our body parts important? What happens if one stops working?" Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20, and talk about ways the church is like a body. Say: "We each have special gifts. If we don't use them, the whole church doesn't work as well as it could. Let's remember to play our parts by using our gifts."

It's a Wrap! Fill a sack with toilet paper, cotton balls, ribbons, and bows. Ask a family member to be the "gift." Then have everyone else wrap the gift, using the supplies in the sack and their imaginations. When the wrapping is complete, have family members each share something special about the gift

you just wrapped; for example, "This gift likes to help people," or "This gift has a lovely singing voice." After everyone has had a turn as the gift, read James 1:17. Discuss who gives you spiritual gifts and why, what gifts God has given each of you, and how you can use your gifts to serve God and other people.

Equipped to Lead Help your kids discover their talents and gifts by seeking out ways to serve at your church. They could do service projects, say public prayers, provide music, greet people, and more. Older kids could also assist in the nursery or in preschool rooms.

Side-by-Side Serving Allow kids to shadow you or someone else who shares one of their unique abilities. Working together lets children see their talents and spiritual gifts in action and helps them understand the many ways they can use their gifts.

Thank the Giver During prayer times, encourage children to thank God not only for their physical blessings but also for their talents and spiritual gifts. As you pray, ask God to help your kids discover new gifts as they grow and give them wisdom to use each gift in ways that honor him and other people.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

—1 Peter 4:10

MEDIA MADNESS



TV SHOW

Title: *Supergirl*

Genre: Drama, action, science fiction

Cast: Melissa Benoist, Mehcad Brooks, Calista Flockhart

Synopsis: An earthly family takes in Superman's biological cousin after she's forced off her home planet of Krypton. She hides her powers until she's forced to reveal them during a disaster, setting her on the road to heroism.

Our Take: Superhero shows are big business these days, but this is the first featuring a female lead. Girls now have a superhero to look up to. While Supergirl's foundation story sounds similar to Superman's, it remains to be seen how different the rest of the story will be.



PRODUCT

Title: *Buddy Box*

Available From: Lifetree Family (www.lifetreefamily.com/buddybox/)

Synopsis: With this subscription service, kids receive a care package each month containing games, puzzles, gizmos, snacks, a video app, music downloads, prayer prompts, and more. Each box is centered around a character (or buddy) who helps kids grow in an area of faith.

Our Take: This is a great idea for kids who love getting surprises in the mail—and for parents who want to help nurture their children's faith. Buddy Box is designed for kids ages 6 to 11. Subscription options include a 12-month plan that comes out to \$22.99 per month.



CULTURE & TRENDS

The Language Edge To give tykes a boost in today's global community, some believe parents will begin to seek out multilingual nannies who can help kids learn foreign languages as early as age 3. Statistics show the most popular languages families want nannies to speak are Spanish, French, and Chinese. (gastongazette.com)

Image Problems According to a study from Common Sense Media, 5- to 8-year-olds who believe their moms are unhappy with their bodies are more likely to be unhappy with their own bodies. (commonsensemedia.org)

Games, Sites & Apps

Skylanders SuperChargers

This new role-playing video game, available for numerous platforms, introduces vehicles to the popular Skylanders series. In addition to classic gameplay, players drive vehicles while evading obstacles, solving puzzles, and collecting parts for vehicle upgrades.

Superbook

The Bible-based DVD series from the Christian Broadcasting Network is the inspiration for this site, which offers games, contests, free Bible and music apps, full show episodes, discussion guides, and more. Some features require a paid membership. Find the site at <http://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/>.

Robot Factory

This iOS app, priced at 99 cents, is an animated workshop where kids mix-and-match parts to create robots and test their creations. Real-world physics is involved, so kids learn how their robots would actually work and move. With no points or levels, kids can just be creative without keeping score.

QUICK STATS

Talking About Faith Studies show that only one out of every eight kids talks to their mom about faith, and only one out of every 25 kids talks to their dad. Unsurprisingly, these same studies show that the kids who are talking together with their parents experience more life-long faith than those who aren't talking. (*Sticky Faith*)

Energy Crisis Preteens who consume energy drinks were 66 percent more at risk for hyperactivity than those who didn't, according to a study from the Yale School of Public Health. (ksl.com)

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This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Pumpkins Arrive!
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Pumpkin Fest 5-7pm It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown at 7pm in the Gym
25 Super Sunday in God's Backyard	26	27	28	29	30	31