

Summer Vacations and Tarbiyah of Children

Summer vacations are an opportune time for children's Tarbiyah, their personality grooming and to improve their academics and polish their skills through various activities. Parents and teachers should make these vacations useful for their children with proper planning. Develop their mental faculty. Increase the sense of responsibility and build confidence in them. Make them aware of the modern skills required in the future.

There are a few guidelines for Tarbiyah of children in accordance with summer vacations:

- Divide school homework and get it done bit by bit every day.
- Don't let children sleep late at night nor allow them to wake up late during vacations. Wake them up for the morning Salah. The father should take the sons to the masjid and the mother should perform the Salah with the daughters at home. If it is possible, give them a reward for performing the morning Salah. Every day, make it the responsibility of one person in the home to wake up all the family members at the dawn. This will develop a sense of responsibility and a spirit of cooperation in goodness.
- Schedule time for the recitation of the Holy Quran, translation, commentary of the Quran and Durood with children and the family.
- Set a target for your children to learn the Six Kalimas, ten Masnoon Du'as, ten Surahs (chapters) of the Holy Quran and 20 short Hadiths with translations. Help them memorize all these and reward them for achieving the target.
- Stop them from misuse of mobile phones and the internet, playing video games, and watching immoral and non-Sharia cartoons during the vacation.
- Select some of the best authentic books on Islam, history, information, literature and other topics and hold group study sessions from time to time at home. Make arrangements to tell stories and poems. Ask children what they learnt during the study sessions; make them write these things in a diary. Give them research and creative work projects accordingly. Similarly, develop the four skills of language i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition,

their writing and essay writing skills will also improve. Reading also helps in the fluency of language.

- Help them to write the names of the books above mentioned and keep them organized so that children can develop their library. This will help them to put away and organize their things.
- Get them to do the activities that are in accordance with their academic objectives; they will become interested and do them easily. Try to find out the academic weaknesses of children with the help of the teachers. Make a checklist to eliminate them and organize the activities accordingly.
- Encourage children to take up gardening as a healthy hobby. Grow the plants that bear fruits early and need little water; that will keep the children interested. Help your children to grow plants in the yard or flowerbed and develop them into trees. This will develop a sense of responsibility and self-confidence in them.
- Take your children to your relatives' home. Invite the relatives to visit your home. This will improve the relations with the relatives.
- Take care of your children in the face of extreme weather and protect them from heat and the sun. Get them to do the indoor activities during the noontime and outdoor activities in the evening.
- In the morning or evening, get children to do a walk or exercise in any garden, by a canal or on a roadside. This way, they will become healthy and get into the habit of contemplating by looking at the beautiful environment.
- Teach boys and girls different skills according to their capabilities such as stitching, embroidery, henna design, cooking or similar skills.
- Train children to take part in social activities. Encourage them to help others. Make them do small home chores. Give them some responsibilities as well such as taking care and attending to children or the elderly.
- You can also design activities according to the need and interests of children. You can tailor these activities as well to suit the state of mind of children. Make sure these holiday moments are not wasted. Children are your asset. Protect your asset and do the best Tarbiyah by following the points mentioned above.

