

Preparation for the Toddler Years

Summary Points - Visit 3 - Chapters 8 & 9

Segment 1

1. Parents must provide a learning environment that is consistent with their pretoddler's developmental age and ability
2. Precept upon precept and line upon line is a biblical reference to how children learn.
3. Granting play freedoms beyond a child's ability to manage those freedoms creates confusion in the learning process.
4. Overly restrictive environments restrain learning in children.
5. God has set boundaries at every level of the Universe.
6. A play environment without boundaries negatively impacts behavior.
7. Blanket time provides a portable boundary.

Segment 2

1. The funnel analogy represents necessary developmental boundaries.
2. Parents will either manage their pretoddler's environment or the environment will manage the pretoddler.
3. Children gain freedoms as they become responsible to manage each new level of freedom.
4. When a child is at peace with his environment his learning potential increases.
5. A primary enemy of learning is allowing a child to interact with items that:
 - a. are meaningless to his life,
 - b. can potentially cause harm,
 - c. can hurt others,
 - d. can cause damage to an item, or
 - e. can cause damage to the property of others.

Segment 3

1. Pretoddlers reach optimal learning when their play environment is in harmony with their developmental abilities.
2. The three developmental equations include:
 - a. Freedoms granted that are greater than the child's ability to manage those freedoms equals developmental confusion.
 - b. Freedoms granted that are less than a child's ability to manage those Freedoms equals developmental frustration.
 - c. Freedoms granted that are aligned with a child's ability equals developmental harmony.
3. Parenting in the funnel means less correction.
4. Parenting in the funnel encourages contentment.