

“Partner With Your Children”

By: Donna Vail



WHAT children need is love and compassion; honestly it's what we all need. Men were not created to rule over each other but rather walk beside each other, encouraging one another. By demonstrating this to our children we are preparing them for right relationships throughout all facets of their lives.

We are all students, learning and growing, just as we are also teachers. While you're increasing and growing in knowledge and skill, so will your children. As a parent you cannot expect your child to get to where you want them to be without walking the path beside them and modeling. Don't we all hate to be in the situation –“Do as I say not as I do?”

It's our responsibility to guide and provide, answering our calling to be partners with our children. Children learn what they live. Notice, what are they living? Ask yourself, “Is there anything I can improve upon to increase their life?” Home and curriculum creates environment but the real success comes from the healthy relationships built first in the home then in one's world.

“The more you live & work in partnership with all, the happier, healthier and more successful you will be.” –Marc Allen
What does a Parent-Child Partnership look like?

It's built upon the foundation of respect, harmony and love. We must be what we want our children to become.

Respect: Respect is earned not taught. To be respected you must first respect yourself and others.

Harmony: Taking into consideration the highest good for everyone in all situations regardless of our own opinions.

Love: Unconditionally loving as we all grow through life's lessons.

Parenting is a spiritual matter and must be treated as such. It goes to the depths past physical needs and knowledge. Spiritual growth takes moments, hours, days, months and years. Children are evolving fast, what worked decades ago, no longer works today. The children born today will populate a whole new world and fulfill entirely new purposes than you and I. What they will face as adults will be very different than life as we know it today much the same as what we face today is foreign to that which our parents faced. Embracing each person's uniqueness through a parent partnership will empower both you and your children.

Carl W. Buechner wrote: “They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

Domination is the problem. Partnership is the solution.

Every relationship is either domination or partnership. Domination leads to endless conflict. The more we work and live in partnership, the more harmony we create in our lives and in our world.

Domination: Conflict, fear and the need to control.

Partnership: Respect, harmony and love.

Partnerships are based on the Golden Rule: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” The partnership also recognizes the great value and sacredness of all life. It fosters harmony, respect, love and an explosion of creativity and joy.

Do you wonder why some relationships just don't seem to flow? Ask yourself; is this relationship a partnership or domination? It can shed quite a bit of light on the fruits of that part of your life, whether abundant or barren. Perhaps even answer some longstanding questions and allow one to move forward by applying partnership traits where necessary. What you will find as you homeschool your children is that it's not only about the academics. Take a step back so you can see the whole picture. Then focus in on what you and your children can do in your home, your community and ultimately the world. As we consider all areas of our life and look to walk in partnership we will be creating balance in our own lives, which will translate balance into our children's lives. What is done today with our children will be carried a hundred years or more into the future. Let's make it count.

Create Partnerships With:

- Yourself: Nurture and support yourself, always being gentle and accepting in the moment. Accepting your own uniqueness and being willing to do what it takes to fulfill your purpose in life, even if it looks different than others.
- Intimate Relationships: Includes your spouse, children, family and friends. Acting in respect to others where everyone is allowed a voice and love is acknowledged, unconditional and without measure.
- Work and Community Relationships: Everyone is respected and allowed a voice. Seek to form creative solutions that respect all including the environment. Everything we do supports our community.
- National Relationships: Develop solutions to government problems with positive effects on society rather than fighting government or taking advantage of it. That which you're against weakens you, what you're for empowers you.
- International Relationships: What can we be doing to bring peace between the nations? There are all kinds of opportunities and benefits. Be the change you want to see. Find ways to be involved even from the comfort of your home.
- Relationship with Nature: Instead of consuming and using all our resources what can we do to live more simply that is respectful to nature, the cycles of seasons and life, while watching and learning from the teachings that nature reveals to us.
- Relationship with God: This is not about religion but that which you come from. Do we acknowledge and respect our spiritual nature? Do we respect spiritual choices that others have made? Are we acting in love, giving love and receiving love unconditionally?

The Big Picture

Though we are focused particularly on your relationship with your children and their education I wanted to share with you the importance of considering the bigger picture. Realizing the magnitude of power held between the partnership of a mentor and student, the parent and child. Because you have taken responsibility for yourself and your children's education you're contributing to the highest good of all from the comfort of your home.

Working in partnership surrounds you with people possessing far more capable skills with what they do, allowing you to be the best you at what you do. When in a state of allowing, creative forces and inspiration flows. We find our expectations and desires are quickly surpassed. When you see others as their potential, you're allowing them to prove you right and most often they will.

Parents Inspired to Action:

Create a partnership with yourself first, enabling you to partner throughout the bigger picture. Always keep in mind working for the highest good of all. Replace all thoughts that are not conducive to the well-being of yourself, your child and others. Give yourself time to be still, observe and learn from what you see and hear. Instead of struggling and fighting your way along, do less and accomplish more.

Children Inspired to Action:

As you're modeling what a partnership looks like to your children, walk beside them and interact with them at deeper levels. Seek to understand first before being understood. Teach your children the golden rule and how to pause and consider when they're faced with a decision: "Does this add more life to all and less to none?" ▲



Donna Vail is the Founder of An Inspired Education, a company devoted to empowering families around the world to a lifestyle of true freedom through homeschooling, inspiration and entrepreneurship. Donna and her husband have homeschooled their six children for the past 16 years and now help today's homeschoolers find their way. For more about her company, visit <http://www.aninspirededucation.com>.