

Six Things Every Kid Needs



Thank you for downloading this free PDF. We hope this is helpful as you face the most challenging and most rewarding role of your life! We truly believe that regardless of your own story, God has designed you to be a great parent. Access Church has helped hundreds of parents raise great kids, and we hope this resource helps you, also.

The mightiest of oaks was once a small seed. Most seeds never grow into a tree. The transformation is only possible when the environment is just right. In order for our children to reach their full potential, these six elements create an environment of growth:

1. Good Soil. A child's roots can grow deep when they know they are loved unconditionally. No matter how your family is structured, you can communicate every day that your family will love this child always, forever, and no matter what. Every child is asking the question, "Where do I come from?" Tell stories that create a strong sense of identity and belonging, with an overall message of permanence. Every child needs to know that their family is a safe place and that their parents are a source of unconditional love.

2. Blue Skies. Right after the question, "Where do I come from?" comes the question, "Where am I headed?" Your child was designed with a unique set of gifts, and incredible potential. It's important to help them dream big about their future and have high hopes. This also means helping them understand that while the future is wide open to them, they should avoid unwise decisions that at any time could limit their future. Help your children discover their potential by giving them meaningful work and allowing them to discover the pride of accomplishment. They will grow toward the sky!

3. The Right Climate. Palm trees won't grow in Alaska, and the climate matters for our kids, also. Community matters. Every kid needs another voice saying the same thing their parents are saying (babysitter, grandparent, church leader, etc.). Also, friends matter. Our friends determine the quality and direction of our lives (for kids and adults). Kids want to know, "Who's going with me?" and we can surround them with the right people.

4. Fertilizer. Fertilizer stimulates growth, but it can sting a bit. Every kid needs parents who are willing to initiate uncomfortable or difficult conversations. Every kid needs nosey parents. Great parents know what is going on in their kids' lives, and step in when necessary to help make course corrections.

5. Storms. This is the one element we can't control. We don't know when the storm is coming, or what it will look like, but in the middle of the storm it's important to remember that this will make your child stronger. As much as we want to protect them from pain and keep them from hardship, it is the difficulties of life that will develop strength of character. Resist the temptation to step in and rescue your child, and come alongside them and equip them to weather the storms of life.

6. A Really Big God. A tree will never ask the biggest question that faces every human, "Who put me here?" Every child needs to know that there is a really big God who made them and loves them. Every child needs to know that their Creator knows everything about them and loves them with an unconditional love. Every child deserves a faith that is rooted in history and can withstand the storms of life—even the doubts of adulthood.

We hope this is helpful for you. Access Church wants to be an incredible asset for St. Johns, and we think helping families is a great place to start. We want to help every member of your family make friends, grow in faith, and live with purpose.

Access Church meets at Liberty Pines Academy, near the intersection of St. Johns Parkway and State Road 9B. Service times and more information can be found at AccessChurch.com.