



# **Raising Children the Islamic Way**

## **Session One**

### **Character building in children**

What characteristics would you like your child to have? Think of specific traits and examples.

# Hadith

أَلْوَلَدُ الصَّالِحِ رِيحَانَةٌ مِنْ رِيَاحِينَ الْجَنَّةِ

A virtuous child is a flower  
from the flowers of Heaven.

**Holy Prophet (s)**

# Rights of the Child

And the right of your child is that you should know that he is from you and he will be ascribed to you in this world due to both his good deeds and his evil deeds.

And you are responsible for what has been entrusted to you in teaching him good conduct and guiding him toward his Lord and helping him to obey Him on your behalf and for himself.

**Treatise of Rights, Imam Zaynul Abidin (a)**

# The need for good character

- Natural and instinctive need
- Need for being a good servant of God
- Need for harmony in relationships
- Need for happiness in both worlds

# Good Character

**Positive qualities** - kindness, courtesy, cheerfulness, helping others, respect, fairness, cleanliness . . .

**Avoiding negative qualities-** rudeness, lying, telling tales, jealousy . . .

**Etiquettes** - eating, drinking, sleeping, interacting with others . . .

**Good habits** – sleeping early, reciting Quran, helping at home, working hard . . .

# Factors that influence character

- Genetics
- Behavior of parents
- Home atmosphere
- Friends
- Activities
- Media

# Practical ways of molding character

## Be clear

Have clear and concrete ideas of what type of characteristics you want to see in your child. Then communicate them well to your child. Show them examples, and walk through situations with them.

## Use opportunities

Use natural situations to teach character. When opportunities arise, motivate and guide children to act with good character. That is practical and more effective than theoretical teaching.

# Prophetic Reminders

- 1) Be a child with your children. The Holy Prophet (s) said: Whoever has a child should behave with him in a childlike manner.
- 2) Do not be upset at the crying of children. The Holy Prophet (s) said that one of the reasons why he loved children was that they cried often.
- 3) Kiss your children often, for with every kiss there is a rank in Heaven.
- 4) Increase the self esteem of your children by greeting them first. If they greet you, reply warmly.
- 5) Do not look down or make fun of childish behavior or childish emotions.