




Raising Children the Islamic Way

Session Nine

Sibling Rivalry

Take two kids in competition for their parents' love and attention. Add to that the envy that one child feels for the accomplishments of the other; the resentment that each child feels for the privileges of the other; the personal frustrations that they don't dare let out on anyone else but a brother or sister, and it's not hard to understand why in families across the land, the sibling relationship contains enough emotional dynamite to set off rounds of daily explosions

Adele Faber, Siblings without Rivalry



I love children for five things:

First; they cry a lot

Second; they play with soil

Third; they hate without malice

Fourth; they do not store anything for the next day

Fifth; they build something and then they ruin it

Holy Prophet (s)

Agenda

- Sibling Rivalry in the Quran
- Why Sibling Rivalry
- Value of Sibling Rivalry
- Decreasing sibling conflict
- Reminders from the Holy Prophet (s)

Sibling Rivalry in the Quran

■ The story of Habil and Qabil

And relate to them the story of the two sons of Adam with truth when they both offered an offering, but it was accepted from one of them and was not accepted from the other. He said: I will most certainly slay you. He said: Allah only accepts from those who guard against evil.

Sura Maidah, 5:27

■ The story of Nabi Yusuf and his brothers.

When they said: Certainly Yusuf and his brother are dearer to our father than we, though we are a (stronger) company; most surely our father is in manifest error.

Sura Yusuf, 12:8

Why sibling rivalry

- struggling to create an identity for themselves.
- feelings of unfair treatment by parents
- siblings are seen as a threat to their relationship with parents
- family dynamics also affect sibling relationships
- physical causes such as hunger, lack of sleep, boredom . . . etc.

Value of sibling rivalry

Children learn important skills such as how to negotiate and compromise.

Children are able to control aggressive impulses and resolve conflicts.

Children learn to see things from other people's perspectives.

Decreasing sibling conflict

- Help children understand that anger is normal sometimes but should and can be controlled.
- Show conflict solving strategies by example.
- Don't take sides
- Coach them on how to solve their conflicts rather than solve it for them.
- Avoid comparing children, or 'favoring' one over the other.
- Set ground rules such as no physical fights, mean words, yelling . . . and explain the consequences for them.
- Let children know that they are loved. Spending time alone with each child helps decrease jealousy between siblings.

Treating children with justice

The Prophet once saw a man who had two children and he kissed one of them and left the other. At this time the Messenger of Allah (s) said to him: “Should you not treat them equally?”

Hasan was the eldest child of ‘Ali (a) and he was noble, gracious, patient and an eloquent speaker, and the Prophet of Allah (s) loved him. One day the Prophet (s) made a competition between Hasan and Husain and Hasan won, so the Prophet (s) seated him on his right knee and seated Husain on his left knee

Reminders from the Holy Prophet (s)

One of the duties of parents is to nurture truthfulness and honesty in children. They should behave with children such that honesty becomes a habit of the child. This is harder than nurturing other qualities.

May God bless the person who helps his child towards righteousness by:

- 1) Accepting what the child is able to do
- 2) Not expecting that which is beyond the ability of the child.
- 3) Not lying to him nor acting foolishly with him.