

## **DO THIS**



### **MORNING TIME**

When you go into your child's room this month, say, "Good morning! Where's my [child's name]? There he/she is! Who made [child's name]? God made [child's name]!"



### DRIVE TIME

As you drive, repeat "[Person's name] is fearfully and wonderfully made" using different people's names. See how many friends, family members, and community helpers you can name before you get where you're going.

# CUDDLE TIME

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Cuddle up wth your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for making [child's name] and letting me be his/her mommy/ daddy. He/she is so smart and helpful. I love watching him/her grow and learn every day. I pray he/she always remembers how speical he/she is. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



## BATH TIME

Bath time can be a fun and natural time for teaching your child the correct names of (his, her) body parts. As you bathe your child, simply say the correct name of each body part and ask (him, her) to repeat it. End bath time by asking, "Who made you?" and then say together, "God made you!"



# TODDLERS

### **BALANCING FUN AND ORDER**

2019

MARCH

#### By Toni Collier

If there's one thing I can't deny about my four-year-old Dylan, it's that **she likes to have fun.** It's an **essential part of her day.** She's the kid that asks what we're doing and where we're going every five minutes just to make sure that every nanosecond of the day, fun is present.

Every kid is wired for fun. But as parents, we know that we also have to be consistent with order so that we can one day stare into the eyes of our kind, responsible, loving adults.

I am absolutely the parent that leans towards order and discipline in my home. I'm always questioning if my daughter is getting the right amount of order that will help her become a kind, responsible, and loving adult. Maybe others lean more towards the fun side. Here are a few ways that I've found helps me stay in a healthy balance of both.

## Keep fun games and activities visible in our home.

Matching cards, puzzles, and board games. I leave them right there on the counter and family tables so that if my little sees it, she's bound to ask and I'm sure to remember that it may be time for a game.

#### Create family tradition days.

Fridays are movie nights. Saturdays always include some type of outdoor

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activity, if weather permits. I also refer to the Parent Cue App every week for the fun activities that go along with Bible stories and verses.

#### Build a behavior chart.

This helps infuse both order (it outlines the things that we want her to work on) and fun (the rewards for great behavior are all quality time fun-based).

#### Stay in tune.

I can tell when Dylan has had enough fun, or when I've given her so much order and discipline that she needs a break for some fun.

You know your child better than anyone else. So, use your instinct. Remember this: There will be seasons of unbalance, when more order and discipline are needed to really equip your future adult. Then there will be those incredible moments where we get to just simply enjoy our kids and laugh until we snort.

No matter what season you're in, know this: Your kind, responsible and loving future adult needs nothing else, but you. Keep parenting guys-we've got this.

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