Do You See What I See?

One way to teach compassion in your child is to use games. One such game is called: I See Something You Don't See or I Spy With my Little Eye. Begin playing by focusing on obvious colors and shapes. As your child gets better at seeing the obvious, you can help them to see in a different way. You can model for them to notice others in a compassionate way. Instead of saying, "I see something red and silver," on the playground, you can say, "I see a child being generous," on the playground. This game allows them to test out their concept of good values in a safe and non-judgmental way.



"When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; (as I grew up), I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known." (ICorinthians 13:11-12)

"God must be pursued, and the more you chase him, the more you catch him." - Maimonides



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Parents are the first and best teachers of their children. They are the first examples of God in the child's world. Inside, please find some tried and true ways to make every day events into teachable moments for your child to see the love of God. By trying these ideas you will see that it is easy to model faithfulness for your child.

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Peek-a-Boo, I See You ...

When you see your child—first thing in the morning, last thing at night, or at any time at all—really look at them. Reawaken that precious parent/child gaze that began in their infancy, the look that brought you both closer to heaven, and love them with your eyes.

"God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good." (Genesis 1:31a)

It's Not Polite to Stare...

But it is polite to use your eyes to connect with someone else. Show your child the value of focusing on people rather than things, and the good in a person instead of what they can do for you. In this way, we teach them to focus on what God asks us to focus on.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)



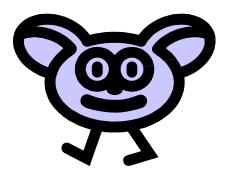


Look at me-When I am Talking to You

Often when our children try to share the important events of

their lives, we brush them off as unimportant compared to our own pursuits. If this happens our children can get the message that they are unimportant. When your child speaks, look them in the eye and let them know their worth. Even if you need to 'make a date' to discuss their concerns later.

"Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me, find me." (Proverbs 8:17)



Two Eyes, Two Ears, One Mouth

God is great! He set up our faces to model how we should focus in life. We should look and listen twice as much as we talk. Children learn this by having gentle reminders about how God is present to us, even in the way we look!

"The ear hears, and the eye that sees—the Lord has made them both." (Proverbs 20:12)