

Early Elementary Life Stage PARENTING “PUNCH LIST”



In home construction and remodeling, a “**punch list**” is used during a project to outline the items that need to be covered to complete a job well. Likewise, Watermark Family Ministry has assembled this **Parenting Punch List** that you can use as a guide to be prepared for parenting a **Early Elementary child**. The material presented below is targeted towards parenting ages 5 to 9 years (Grades K through 3rd Grade).

PILLARS

Like a house, our parenting must have a firm foundation to raise courageous Christian leaders in an ever-changing world that has lost its way. That foundation is God’s Word and we encourage you to consider the following “pillars” that anchor how we parent our kids:

MODEL

Deuteronomy 6:6 calls us as parents to model our faith to our children by keeping God’s word in our hearts.

Here are some ways to **Model** during the **Early Elementary** life stage:

AREA	ACTION
You	Connect with God through Bible Study and prayer Web Resource: jointhejourney.com
Your Marriage	Ruthlessly pursue oneness with your spouse in the areas of communication, intimacy and fellowship Web Resource: marriagehelp.org
Community	Resist isolation by connecting with others and parenting in community Web Resource: watermark.org/plano/ministries/community
External Focus	Serve our immediate community and the world Web Resource: watermark.org/impact and watermark.org/familyserve

TRAIN

Proverbs 22:6 calls us to train up a child in the way they should go so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. The Bible is the ultimate resource for parents. As we are told in **2 Timothy 3:16**, “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”. The resources provided are not meant to be a replacement of but a supplement to your regular reading of God’s word and your prayers for wisdom and discernment in leading your children.

Here are some ways to **Train** yourself during the **Early Elementary** life stage:

ACTION	RESOURCE
Read	Raising Great Kids - Cloud & Townsend
Listen	Leaving a Lasting Legacy - Todd and Alex Wagner watermark.org/message/2138
Attend	Watermark Kids LIVE and other parent & child events offered throughout the year
Check out	Watermark Kids Elementary Blog at watermark.org/blog/elementary

Here are some ways to **Train** your child during the **Early Elementary** life stage:

TOPIC	PRAY FOR WISDOM REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ACTION AREAS:
Spiritual Development	How does God want us to pour into our children to grow in their faith? Book Resources: <i>The Family You've Always Wanted</i> - Chapman <i>Introduction to Family Nights</i> - Bruner For Kids: Adventure Bible Long Story Short Sticky Situations Devotions
Discipline	How are we being called by God to discipline our children? Book Resource: <i>Wise Words Question Calendar</i> - Plowman Web Resource: Reclaiming Discipline - Millye Hale - watermark.org/message/3702
Media Management	How is God calling us to manage media in our home right now? How does that affect what movies and music our kids are exposed to? How does that affect computer and mobile device use? Do we need to evaluate use of more substantive technology protection (<i>website blocking, internet accountability software</i>)?
Sexual Purity	How does God want us to plan and prepare our hearts and home to address sexual purity? Book Resource for Kids: <i>Before I was Born</i> - Jones Web Resource: Raising Kids in a XXX Culture, Parts 1 & 2 - watermark.org/plano/series/141
Stewardship	How are we being called to steward financial resources as a family? What messages does God want us to send our children about our relationship with money and material possessions?
Time Management	How is God calling us to manage the time He has given us in this season? What kind of pace are we setting? Is it sustainable?

PRAY

Ephesians 6:18 calls us as parents to pray at all times in the Spirit so that we are parenting according to God's plan and our child's unique design. This includes praying for wisdom and discernment as we seek direction on how to approach key Decision Points related to the **Early Elementary** life stage.

Here are some ways to **Pray** during the **Early Elementary** life stage:

ACTION	RESOURCE
Pray	<i>The Power of a Praying Parent</i> - Stormie Omartian

TRUST

Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us as parents to trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lead on our own understanding. We are called to acknowledge him in all situations and He will make our path straight. These "pillars" of Model, Pray, Trust and Train are underpinned by living out **Matthew 22: 37-39** to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves.



Early Elementary Life Stage

PARENTING "PUNCH LIST"