



# Family Matters



A Christ-center resource for families and teachers

Vol. 17 No. 8 April 2013

## Helping Your Child to “C”

Discovering ways to impart critical skills and values in your child’s life and family setting.

### Competency

Any reasonable parent wants to see his or her child grow up to be a responsible person, a capable and competent adult. We want to make sure that our son or daughter reaches certain benchmarks along the way in school. We desire to see our children grow emotionally and socially, and we want them to become smart about financial matters. Christian parents desire to see their children grow toward spiritual maturity as well.

So, how do you guide children in these lofty directions? How do you help them avoid the evil enemy of mediocrity? How do we as parents help our children create the habit of doing things right, while also doing the right things?

#### Create a Culture of Competency within the Family

Parental behavior again becomes a model for children as they learn the process for getting things done, whether taking on little tasks or big projects. Children can be encouraged by an atmosphere that supports the completion of work done in a timely manner and at a high standard.

How is this culture developed and nurtured within a home setting? Here are some pathways to follow as you travel the road to competency in your home.

- **Seek excellence in all endeavors:** Quality must be an ongoing way of life. Second-rate work and shoddy craftsmanship are never rewarded. All experiences are seen as a teaching tool and a step toward greater fulfillment.
- **Do things enthusiastically:** A high level of spirit and positive attitude accompanies all projects and tasks. Fun is experienced in doing a job well, and joy abounds!

- **Complete tasks in a timely manner:** Timelines are created so that work gets completed. Deadlines are honored, not negotiated. Things are not left to the last minute.
- **Celebrate accomplishments:** From the simple and mundane to the challenging and complex, all accomplishments are acknowledged. Rewards and praise are given as appropriate.

Competency is a gift we pass along to the next generation. It can be attained if we care about quality over quantity. We can experience competency in the home if we are willing to thoroughly invest our time and energy. Competency can happen when we dream more than others think is practical and expect more of ourselves than others think is possible.



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## FAMILY LINKS: Activities for families to reinforce Bible story truths in the home.

*Sit down with the family and a Bible. Follow the outline below.*

**Opening:** Spoken by one of the children.

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 1:1–2:3

This long section of Scripture describes the creation of the world. Read it section by section, having a different person read each time.

Section 1: Genesis 1:1–5

What was created this day? (Light)

Section 2: Genesis 1:6–8

What was created this day? (Sky or heaven)

Section 3: Genesis 1:9–13

What was created this day? (Dry land and plants)

Section 4: Genesis 1:14–19

What was created this day? (Sun, moon and stars)

Section 5: Genesis 1:20–23

What was created this day? (Birds and fish)

Section 6: Genesis 1:24–31

What was created this day? (Animals and humans)

Section 7: Genesis 2:1–3

What did God do on this day? (He rested.)

There is a pattern that happens during the six days of creation. Look back and see if you can figure it out. This is a pattern of excellence and competency practiced by God.

It goes ...

Let there \_\_\_\_\_ (be). It was \_\_\_\_\_ (so). It was \_\_\_\_\_ (good).

Concluding Statement (read by an adult): God is all knowing, all powerful, all seeing, ever present and all competent. He did it all in creation, and when people messed things up, He saved us by giving us His Son to die for our sins. God says He will always be with us and make all things work for good. We have a competent God!

## Tips for Parents in Helping Children Grow in Competency:

1. Sit down and review homework with your children every night — even if they say they have it done and know what they are doing. If they did it right, support their work; if it's not done satisfactorily, work with them to complete it with excellence.
2. Set strong standards for grades for each child as appropriate to their development. Stretch them to grow in areas of weakness and challenge them in areas of strength.
3. Give them responsibility around the house, starting at a young age. Little children can pick up their toys and keep their room neat. As they grow, chores and other household responsibilities can be added.
4. Take on responsibility as a family for a church or community service project that requires time and hard work on behalf of someone else.
5. Offer to pay for special tasks or jobs around the house that go beyond the normal responsibilities of the child. This will give them special incentive to get the job done. Pay them only when it's done correctly.
6. Let children offer opinions on family activities and outings. Allow them to express their ideas, and then do what they suggest! When it's all done, talk about how it went as a family, and use it as a teachable moment.

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Vol. 17 • No. 8  
April 2013

"Family Matters" is published by LCMS School Ministry (Office of National Mission), 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295 (314) 965-9000 • [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

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