



October 2015

# parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**The Woodlands  
Community**

**Presbyterian Church**

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## Grow Your Kids' Talents and Gifts

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To reveal to your children the special talents he's given them.
2. To provide opportunities for your family members to develop their gifts.
3. To help your family members

As children reach different developmental milestones, they also begin to show signs of emerging abilities. God blesses each of us with talents such as in music, sports, and art. The New Testament says God also gives us special abilities known as spiritual gifts, such as serving, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy.

Children don't need to wait until they're older to use their talents and gifts. But they may need help discovering and applying those things. And as their abilities develop, kids gain confidence by becoming more competent at the various activities they enjoy.

Here are fill-in sentences to help your kids identify their talents and gifts.

- I feel great when people notice how well I \_\_\_\_\_.
- My friends would say one of my best qualities is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I get annoyed when I have to \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I had a free afternoon, I'd enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I could volunteer, I'd really like to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The two happiest times in my life are \_\_\_\_\_.
- One thing I do well without having to think about it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- People would be surprised to know that I \_\_\_\_\_.

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## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### Chart Your Course

Give family members each a sheet of paper. Have them divide the page into quarters by drawing a vertical line and a horizontal line that cross in the middle of the page.

- In the top left-hand corner, have family members write or draw one of their talents.
- In the top right-hand corner, have them write or draw whom that talent can serve.
- In the bottom left-hand corner, have them write or draw what they think they could do to develop that talent.
- In the bottom right-hand corner, have them write or draw an amazing thing God could do if they were to use that talent to serve him.

Share your papers. Then read aloud

Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, and discuss the importance of using the talents God has given us.

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## Discover and Celebrate Gifts

Finding and nurturing your children's gifts involves more than just signing them up for a full slate of activities and hoping for scholarships down the road. It's a lifelong process of encouraging kids to unlock their God-given potential, challenging them to explore activities or tasks that may seem intimidating at first, and reminding them to always put their gifts to good use. God doesn't want us to bury or waste our talents or spiritual gifts. Instead, he tells us to use them for other people through service. And by serving others, we're actually serving God. Use these ideas to help your children identify and use their special gifts.

**I Spy a Talent** Sit in a circle. Have family members look at the person to their right and think about that

person's talents. After a few minutes, have people take turns sharing what talents they see in that person. Go around the circle counterclockwise so the person whose talents were just discussed speaks next. Then discuss what it's like to talk about others'

talents and to hear about your own.

**Touch Your Nose** Play a game of Simon Says, giving instructions

related to body parts. For example: "Simon says touch your nose."

Wiggle your ears. Simon says blink your eyes. Stomp your feet."

Afterward ask, "Why is each of our body parts important? What

happens if one stops working?" Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20, and talk about ways the church is like a body. Say: "We each have special gifts. If we don't use them, the whole church doesn't work as well as it could. Let's remember to play our parts by using our gifts."

**It's a Wrap!** Fill a sack with toilet

paper, cotton balls, ribbons, and bows. Ask a family member to be the "gift." Then have everyone else wrap the gift, using the supplies in the sack and their imaginations.

When the wrapping is complete, have family

wrapped; for example, "This gift likes to help people," or "This gift has a lovely singing voice." After everyone has had a turn as the gift, read James 1:17. Discuss who gives you spiritual gifts and why, what gifts God has given each of you, and how you can use your gifts to serve God and other people.

**Equipped to Lead** Help your kids discover their talents and gifts by seeking out ways to serve at your church. They could do service projects, say public prayers, provide music, greet people, and more. Older kids could also assist in the nursery or in preschool rooms.

**Side-by-Side Serving** Allow kids to shadow you or someone else who shares one of their unique abilities. Working together lets children see their talents and spiritual gifts in

action and helps them understand the many ways they can use their gifts.

**Thank the Giver** During prayer times, encourage children to thank God not only for their physical

blessings but also for their talents and spiritual gifts. As you pray, ask God to help your kids discover new gifts as they grow and give them

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."



# MEDIA MADNESS



## TV SHOW

**Title:** *Supergirl*

**Genre:** Drama, action, science fiction

**Cast:** Melissa Benoist, Mehcad Brooks, Callista Flockhart

**Synopsis:** An earthly family takes in Superman's biological cousin after she's forced off her home planet of Krypton. She hides her powers until she's forced to reveal them during a disaster, setting her on the road to heroism.

**Our Take:** Superhero shows are big business these days, but this is the first featuring a female lead. Girls now have a superhero to look up to. While

Supergirl's foundation story sounds similar to Superman's, it remains to be seen how different the rest of the story



## PRODUCT

**Title** *Buddy Box*

**Available From:** Lifetree Family  
([www.lifetreefamily.com/buddybox/](http://www.lifetreefamily.com/buddybox/))

**Synopsis:** With this subscription

service, kids receive a care package each month containing games,

puzzles, gizmos, snacks, a video app, music downloads, prayer prompts, and more. Each box is centered around a character (or buddy) who helps kids grow in an area of faith.

**Our Take:** This is a great idea for kids who love getting surprises in the mail—and for parents who want to help

nurture their children's faith. Buddy Box is designed for kids ages 6 to 11.

## Games, Sites & Apps

### Skylanders

#### SuperChargers

This new role-playing video game, available for numerous platforms, introduces vehicles to the popular Skylanders series. In addition to classic gameplay,

players drive vehicles while evading obstacles, solving puzzles, and collecting parts for vehicle upgrades.

### Superbook

The Bible-based DVD series from the Christian Broadcasting Network is the inspiration for this site, which offers games, contests, free Bible and music apps, full show episodes, discussion guides, and more. Some features require a paid membership. Find the site at <http://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/>.

### Robot Factory

This iOS app, priced at 99 cents, is an animated workshop where kids mix-and-match parts to create robots and test their creations.

Real-world physics is involved, so kids learn how their robots would actually work and move. With no



## CULTURE & TRENDS

**The Language Edge** To give tykes a boost in today's global community, some believe parents will begin to seek out multilingual nannies who can help kids learn foreign languages as early as age 3. Statistics show the most popular languages families want nannies to speak are Spanish, French, and Chinese. ([gastongazette.com](http://gastongazette.com))

**Image Problems** According to a study from Common Sense Media, 5- to 8-year-olds who believe their moms are unhappy with their

bodies are more likely to be

unhappy with their own bodies. ([commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org))

## QUICK STATS

**Talking About Faith** Studies show that only one out of every eight kids talks to their mom about faith, and only one out of every 25 kids talks to their dad. Unsurprisingly, these same studies show that the kids who are talking together with their parents experience more

life-long faith than those who aren't talking. (*Sticky Faith*)



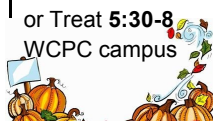

**Energy Crisis** Preteens who consume energy drinks were 66

percent more at risk for hyperactivity than those who didn't, according to a study from the Yale School of Public Health. ([ksl.com](http://ksl.com))

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## Trunk or Treat!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	Tweens 1st Friday Fun Day 6-8 2	3
<b>Children's Sabbath</b> 4 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Children's Ministry Team MTG 12-2 pm	Mom's with Young Children Fellowship 9:30- 11:30 childcare available in CHEB 307-9 5	6	WAM 4-4:30 chimes & fun on playgrounds 4:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH 7	8	9	10
8:30 Worship 11 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship <b>Sunday Funday 7</b> <b>Acres 2-5 pm</b>	Mom's with 12 Young Children Magic Monday 9:30-12:30 child- care available in	13	WAM 4-4:30 chimes & fun on playgrounds 4:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH 14	15	 16	Parent Night Out 17 5-8 pm Pumpkins Galore! childcare reservations to sduncan@wcpc- tx.org
8:30 Worship 18 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 <i>Worship Play</i> <b>12-2 pm 5th &amp; 6th,</b> <b>3rd-4th Fellowship</b>	Mom's with 19 Young Children Bible Study 9:30- 11:30 childcare available in CHEB 307-9	20	WAM 4-4:30 chimes & fun on playgrounds 4:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH 21	22	23	24
25 8:30 <i>Worship Class</i> 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 <i>Worship</i> <i>Class</i>	26 CM Team Prep for Fall Festival 9-12 childcare available in CHEB 307-9	27	WAM 4-4:30 28 chimes & fun on playgrounds 4:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH	29	CM Team Setup 30 9 am-12 Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat <b>5:30-8</b> WCPC campus 	<b>Halloween</b> 31 



**Children's Sunday School 9:45-10:50** beginning and pick up in CE building rooms 203, 103, 101 and 102. 5th and 6th grade SS classroom in 202.

Childcare for worship and under 3 Sunday school in Charles Hendricks Ed. Building rooms 307-309.

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## Children's Fellowship



### Sunday Funday Outing to 7 Acres Oct. 11th 2-5

Children of all ages and their parents, are invited to join us at 7 Acres Wood for old-fashioned harvest fun. Meet us there on Sunday Oct. 11th from 2-5 pm. Basic admission for the field trip is \$6 a person. For an additional \$3-\$5 more you can add a hayride, train ride, pony rides or a pumpkin from the patch. Also a concession stand with coffee, goodies and lunch foods is available. There are also plenty of things to do that do not add to the cost like a petting zoo, Western Town, zip line, rock wall, and children's playground. We are allowed to bring in picnic lunches and use the attached picnic area for our group; so Children's Ministry will bring water bottles and fruit. Families can bring in their own picnic lunch and eat at this picnic table area. Please RSVP to [sduncan@wpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wpc-tx.org) so we can give the farm an idea of how many are coming. Scholarships are always available for children's fellowship activities, just contact Susan.

We want every child to be able to come!



## Worship Classes



**3rd Sunday's Worship Play** with the Pastors or Susan is a time for hearing and responding at a child's level to the Bible text. It is for school aged children on the 3rd Sunday of the month after the Children's Message, **Oct. 18th**. Children will return at the offering to worship. **4th Sunday's Worship Classes** are for children graduating from the nursery program around Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Children and their parents in Kindergarten-2nd grade, any children who missed it earlier may participate. Children's Ministry created this program to help parents and children adjust to the transition from nursery to worship and to prepare the children for participation at their level in worship. Children come the 4th Sunday of the month **Oct. 25th** during either service after the Children's Message and meet in the Narthex of the Sanctuary with Susan. Contact Susan at [sduncan@wpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wpc-tx.org) for more information.



### Children's Sunday School Bible Topic this month:

#### The First Sin

Genesis 3:1-24

Children's Sunday School offering goes to Senior Services at Interfaith this year. We will learn in SS how their coins are used for Meals on Wheels and Angel Tree gifts for the elderly.



Join us for **Parent Night Out and Pumpkins Galore!** on October 17th from 5-8 pm. We will serve pizza & fruit or veggie side but you are also welcome to bring a sack dinner for your child. We will do fall crafts, play games and watch *It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown*.

**Children's Ministry Mission Statement:** To nurture all to experience the unique joy of being a "child" of God.

... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign to your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8





## Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat!

Grab your pumpkins and come to the church parking lot on Oct. 30th at 5:30 pm for Trunk or Treat!

Decorate your trunk, family friendly please! Set up your lawn chair and come to join in the festivities or to watch and support our young families by passing out candy. We have many ELP and ESL families that also join us. There are even prizes for the best trunks and we will supply extra candy if you run out!

### October 30th

### 5:30-8:00 pm

...While the children play carnival games, the trunks get decorated and we have popcorn and cotton candy for those monster munchies! We need lots of volunteers to help man food tables and carnival games.

There will be fall crafts and photo opportunities for everyone too!

The best part—we *also have dinner*, hot dogs, Fritos and chili will be served!

Enjoy the autumn weather and make plans to join us **October 30th for Trunk or Treat!**



Princesses,  
Cats & Things  
all spotted at  
WCPC!



## Children's Sunday School Teams Still Forming!



We are still recruiting teachers and helpers for the children's Sunday school classes. If this is something you can help us with please contact Susan Duncan 281-363-2040 or email [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org) for more information. Where else can you make 15 lifelong friends in less than 5 minutes?

In his book, *Contemplative Youth Ministry*, Mark Yaconelli writes, "I'm convinced that many of us are Christians today because some person or group of people listened to us, saw us, received and delighted in us. This is the kind of presence our youth long for. This is the kind of presence Jesus embodied. This is the kind of presence we seek to incarnate in order to love young people into the faith."

