



10 Elements of a Tree **—Training for Life—**

The SEED

At the start of everything there is a seed, a thought, an idea, some knowledge which something great can spring from.



For children, we can provide this through...

Teaching them that they are valuable and unique, and their life has purpose, is designed and created for a reason, has great potential, and can turn into something wonderful.

Providing thought- and heart-nourishing input and ideas, and protecting their mind's garden from whatever is not.

Choosing what is true, good, right and appropriate for each child to read, watch, hear, experience, learn from and absorb—whatever is of life-building quality.

(Topics: Character-building and faith-stimulation; Social sciences studies; Reading; Creativity.)

The ROOTS



Before one can make outward progress, the roots of inner character must have a stable and welcoming environment to spread, and those roots of reaching out must find suitable nourishment and adequate refreshing in a quality base into which they grow.

For children, we can provide this through...

A happy home-life environment that is watered with loving interaction, and nourished with the best in every way for proper growth.

Room to move and develop, explore and expand in each one's unique way, knowing that each one's talents and abilities, good personality traits, and skill interests help to balance out the family; and a healthy family life is what growth and a useful life will spring from.

A stable environment that can be trusted and is dependable, so they can focus on growth upward, without any insecurity stunting it; a strong base is provided, both in practical ways, as well as in consistent morals and character guidance and instruction. Truth and kindness are what the basic foundation is made of.

(Topics: Home economics; Moral training; Health studies; Practical Life skills; People Management skills; Biblical Basics; Family fun; Time and calendar awareness and planning.)

The TRUNK

Strong and tall and straight is the way to grow into something useful, essential, and dependable; something that changes the surroundings for the better, and provides support.



For children, we can provide this through...

Providing year by year the right living and learning conditions, that enable the children to get a bit stronger, and more layers are added to their knowledge and experience. And just like the rings on a tree go around, so must the teaching and training that builds up the main trunk of their character and who they are becoming be well-rounded, covering all aspects needed for a straight and tall and strong life.

We accept them for who they are, and while young provide the shaping-support, or shelter from strong wind, to ensure their growth is upward and not bent. We give them what they need so that they can stand strong on their own eventually, and will not weaken but rather be strengthened by the winds that will blow.

The majority of their day, their time, their thoughts must be spent on that which builds them up and out. This may be through: Quality read-alouds, or quiet book reading; uplifting classical music and other inspirational music to listen to; and positive play time and projects outdoors (or indoors) with brotherly/sisterly bonding and creative crafts.

(Topics: Language and Writing Skills; Music; Nature and Earth studies; Charity and Conscientious projects and awareness; Choices and Challenges in civilization; Care of Self and Others; Human science.)

The SAP



Underneath the unseen surface of every flourishing tree there is sap flowing freely, unhindered, providing constant nourishment; without it, nothing will else will work and look vibrant.

For children, we can provide this through...

Fresh inspiration must be coursing through them in the form of vision, ideas, goals, outlet options; this must be fed and nourished by that which is good and right. Challenging and fulfilling goals are as fuel that keep one going and growing. We realise this is just as much of a need for a healthy life, as good mental input and fact or skill learning.

We welcome child-generated ideas for family goals, or individual plans, and support and stimulate what will bring the end goal of inspiration and positive growth, as well as what will be a benefit to the world around us.

We realise that every good thing accomplished by great people of the past, and anything around us today ,that it began with and was bought to completion by the unseen thoughts and inspiration and beliefs the person held. Children are given the tips for success, among these is utilizing the power released through prayer and achieving God's help, as well as the reading of motivational truths that truly hold water and prove valid when lived out.

(Topics: Discussions and Debates; Formulating and Sketching plans; Keeping a diary; Quiet times of prayer and thought; Bible studies; History and historical character studies; Technology advances and history studies; Biographies studies and current reports read of people active in living out their ambitions; How to connect with God and gain practical assistance; Story reading—both true and imaginary that teaches how to live right and reach for worthy goals; Motivational classes; Positive thinking practices.)

The BARK



Textured, patterned, varied, thick or thin, tough or smooth, each type of tree has its unique covering that works for it, provides protection, and displays beauty.

For children, we can provide this through...

Teaching about cultures and countries, people and places, and topics of social study. We impress on them, that though each one is different, each one can play a special role in bettering the world, when they live what is right and good and true, for the benefit of society at large.

They learn about community, starting with a working home-life community that surrounds and protects them, and then expanding it to include learning about elements of a flourishing community and stable country, and what makes humanity thrive symbiotically in a healthy society.

Learning from history what does and does not work, and how we got to where we are at today, adds to the knowledge that can provide wisdom for sensible decisions and community-affecting actions.

They are given learning opportunities and watch on-the-job in live action the services and solutions that help to protect and keep the communities, the countries, and the human race going and progressing and safe; they learn about what experiments or ideologies are not fail-proof and rather break down the civil order of the land. They learn what does and does not promote peace and order and safety in society.

(Topics: Social studies; Field trips; Outings to museums; Attending celebrations of varied sorts; Engaging in family projects to provide for the less fortunate; True Stories of Character building nature based in various countries and cultures; Human Science; Partaking in a community project; Learning about wise purchase of home and personal needs that benefit conscientious manufacturers and the environment; Law and order for civil living; Trades and Occupations.)

The BRANCHES



Spreading, shading, and most of all supporting that which will work to keep the tree growing and producing what it was made to.

For children, we can provide this through...

Plenty of time outdoors, learning about nature and the busy work of the animal kingdom. Everything works in harmony, or should. Being outdoors connects them with the rest of the world around and helps them calmly find their place, and discover where they should lend their support to.

We are to care for the Earth and the people on it. Time spent exploring and enjoying all sorts of natural settings, and various terrain and environments helps keep them in touch with the beauty and design of nature and creates sense of caring responsibility and a sense of wonder. Book learning also, and video input has its place, helping to feed the hungry minds for the most fascinating of all topics, the natural world around us and beyond—animals, science laws, nature, the universe, the people, geography and water forms, and all the eco systems at work that must be just so to maintain the order it does.

Just as branches can wave and flow with the wind, yet can be strong and very sturdy, and most of all dependable for the fruit to grow on, so do they learn the proper balance of being flexible and ready to help, flowing with change, yet at the same time being a steady and consistent character, maintaining what is right, and letting go what of is not.

(Topics: Nature and general Science studies; Earth and Geography studies; General Biology; Botany; Animal Husbandry; Gardening and Farm techniques; Physical Education; Entomology; Zoo field trips; Beach, cave, and rainforest exploration; Hiking, camping, hill climbing; Geology; Ecology; Paedology; Oceanography; manmade disaster precautions, and natural disaster management.)

The LEAVES



Of every shape, appearance, and shade, though displaying beauty and offering shelter, all the while the leaves are creating what they were designed to.

For children, we can provide this through...

Useful tools are needed to built a good strong life. Some of the tools we give them are the scholastic topics of language and numeracy.

We want children to be not only self-sufficient and able to care well for themselves, but know how to do so for others. Practical living skills are included in what we consider vital learning topics, such as food preparation, handyman and simple carpentry, yard care, growing food and working with seeds, sewing and making clothes, how to maintain good health, cleaning and caring for a house, watchfulness about dangers, practical organisation, technology familiarization, and so on.

They know that all play and no work is not sustainable nor a fulfilling way to live. Everyone works in some way, even if their work is to play nicely together or read a book to their younger sibling. Each moment of our once-in-a-lifetime days, needs to be used for something beneficial in some way; even lying on the grass watching the clouds racing by and absorbing healthy rays for a time, though relaxing, is time well spent, just as helping their dad to clean the car, or writing out their new spelling words.

(Topics: Numeracy skills; Literary skills; Practical Living skills; Useful Craft Skills; Value of time.)

The FLOWERS



Delightfully decorative, enlivening, attractive and aromatic, yet essential for creating the conditions for seeds and the surrounding sustenance of fruit to form.

For children, we can provide this through...

Opportunities for learning, training, individual expression and practical experience with the arts: music, drama, art and drawing, poetry, photography, songs and singing, dancing, and so forth.

Making a way for their artistic inspirations and endeavours to materialise into reality, in ways that benefits them and others. Art is a way of expression, and all things said in whatever way one says them, should add beauty or benefit to their own life and world around.

We realise that everyone needs a communication outlet, in the way that suits them. And just like flowers appear in season, yet have been part of the trees plans all along, so do we keep the learning of the arts as part of daily learning and provide those special times during the year for the children to blossom and show to others what they have learned or created.

(Topics: Music, Drama, Art, Dancing, Video and audio production; Public Performance skills; Presentations; Public speaking; Period Dressing; Composition of Music; Poetry; Book writing and Publishing; Salesman skills; Social graces and proper Etiquette; Culinary arts; Hosting visitors; Entertaining; Puppet shows and stage plays.)



The FRUIT

Nature's nourishment, to be tasted and tried, giving the crowning creation on the patient tree, yet all the while keeping the goal right in the centre, to spread more seeds that start new and needed growth.

For children, we can provide this through...

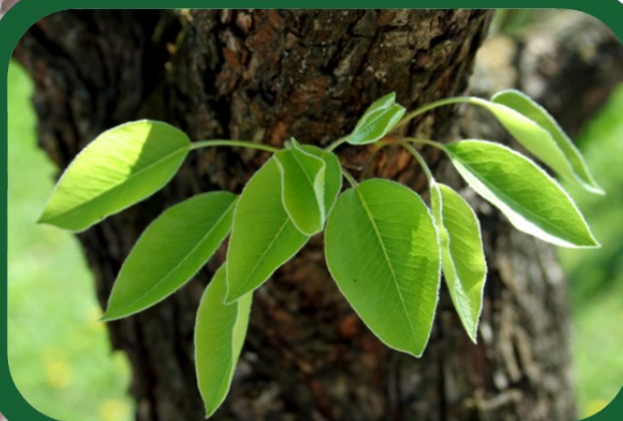
There is a goal and purpose for all of life's learning. Sometimes the good fruits show sooner, and sometimes later. The children know that we aren't just teaching them and providing great learning opportunities simply to bide our time, but because we know they hold great potential to do great things with their life that will benefit many others. There is a reason, and we expect good fruit to come from it, and for them to grow in the ways that will produce that good fruit.

We provide opportunities for them to display to others what they have learned, whether it takes the form of a concert they have composed for, or the chance to give a speech, hold a family market stall, or by publishing their latest book or music album.

We work with them to create good fruits and materials that they can also use, if desired, for making a small profit that can be put towards future endeavours. We help walk them through the child-level steps they wish to take of pondering, preparation, perspiration, production, and payback. This will aid them when they are grown and wish to live out some dream or ambition.

(Topics: Public performances of musical or dramatic or emphatic nature; Writing Skills; Survival Skills and Safety awareness; Rules for Happy and Healthy living; Practical Living skills; Money Management and moral guidelines; Self-motivation; Goal setting and focus; Work Ethics; Planning and Log keeping; Communication skills; Foreign Language studies; Customs and Cultures; Humour and Entertainment; Creativity with quality and life-building themes and tenure.)

SHEDDING & NEW GROWTH



As the life cycle takes us from one thing to the next, the old must be discarded, and the new must spring forth; yet even the old that is released is done in a way that gives the soil the nourishment that is needed by the roots holding the tree in place and in turn giving the tree strength to keep growing ever upward and producing what the environment around it depends on. Leaves fall, and old or unhealthy branches are dropped or pruned, and this keeps the tree strong and producing new growth or the strengthening of what is there.

For children, we can provide this through...

Counselling and instructing them about what elements of their behaviour or speech are best done without, and to give up that which weakens them as an individual or might weaken our family-base that supports them.

When items are no longer needed, we make it a part of life to move them on to benefit others. We choose to only keep what is needed, and make room for the new.

We have a written standard and behavioural policy that is expected, with inbuilt remedies for problems arising that need attention. This keeps the good growing, and the poor subsiding, promoting strong growth of character and their sensitive heart loving protected.

(Topics: Dangers of addictive substances; Proper anger management; Energy channelled in positive ways; Giving unused items to the needy; Parental guidelines and Instruction for upholding a good life-standard; Life-building quality books and videos provided; Birthdays meaningful and self-esteem boosting; Encouragement and rewards for good choices; lack of family support for ideas, words, and methods that weaken life-quality; Learning about love, understanding, having a caring heart, taking turns, friendly expression, and giving the needs of others preference.)

Written by Chariane Quille

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com

