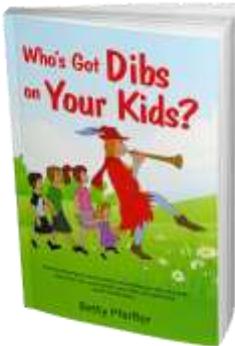


WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers” (Psalm 1:1).



God has given parents a sobering responsibility: bring them [your children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Today’s society and culture are making that a daunting job, and one that demands more of your determination than ever before. The battle is on, and there are ways to fight the Pied Pipers who want to take your kids on paths away from God.

This list may seem long, but it gets easier if you decide to do just one or two things. There are some that take no money, only your time. There are some that require changing laws, if that is where your interests lie. There are some that benefit from organizational skills, and others that do not. Read these over, and see what appeals most to you.

When you’ve decided the type of action that is right for you, look for those where change will have the greatest effect. Or, if that seems too daunting, find some middle-of-the-road ones to pursue.

TEACH THEM GOD’S WORDS

1. Follow God’s instruction to be the main educator in your children’s lives. Start teaching them early—very early—about what God says about creation, morality, salvation through Jesus Christ, the importance of having God in their lives all day, every day.
2. Ask your pastor to provide instruction classes for parents on how to best teach their children at home. Many parents are hesitant, feeling not “up to the task.” Others want to learn the best approaches in today’s society.
3. Teach your children about creation not as an interesting “story” that sounds like fiction, but as the awesome and true event it really was. Try calling it a “narrative” or “chronicle” or “let me tell you about what really happened . . .” depending on the children’s ages.
4. Teach them about the flood and Noah’s ark, again, not as a little story, but as a true event that occurred. Do this with all the well-known stories in both the Old and New Testament. Never give the impression that the Bible is fiction.
5. Explain your beliefs, your values, your morals, your patriotism, and your faith, over and over again to your children, starting almost at birth.
6. When the children are old enough, tell them how science substantiates God’s description of these important occurrences.
7. As soon as your children are old enough, (that will vary by individual) begin to them they will be hearing information that is opposite to what God says. Tell them their trust must always be first in the Word of God. Then advance to telling them what they will hear, e.g. evolution, homosexuality, immorality, etc. Make sure you let them know about these things before they hear them at school or from friends, TV, etc. You will be *inoculating* them against these issues.
8. Teach your kids to love their country. They are American citizens, not global citizens. The laws we live under are set up under our Constitution, not a global set of laws.
9. Teach your kids about promiscuity, homosexuality, and God’s view on those matters.

10. Start your kids reading early. Teach them using phonics. This sounds like a huge task, but it's really easy and logical. Start when they are very young with colorful letters on a magnetic board at their level on the wall. They first use the letters to learn the ABCs, and then hear how they sound and see how you move them to make words.
11. Take your kids to the library. There's plenty there for every age. Monitor their choices.
12. Take your kids on little "field trips" to expand their interests and imagination.
13. Teach your children that actions have consequences, not only in this life, but also with their eternal life in heaven.

BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

1. Visit with your children's teachers at the beginning of each school year. Ask questions about what will be presented in each subject. Ask if the teacher will follow the text of the book, a syllabus, or not be constrained by either. Be sure that what will be taught will not violate your beliefs.
2. If any subject matter will violate your beliefs, find out your rights. Can you opt out of that class? Can you opt out for that portion of the subject matter that is a problem? If you can opt out, what are the consequences? Will your child get a failing grade? Will he/she have to sit in the hall or a vacant classroom until it is over? Will there be other ramifications, such as being discriminated against in some way?
3. Make certain your children bring home every form and piece of correspondence, *and hand it to you*, so you don't miss it. Some forms are designed so that if the school doesn't have a response from you, approval is assumed.
4. Check out abortion rights laws in your state. Planned Parenthood's website <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/parental-consent-notification-laws> is a good resource. Make certain you have both knowledge and control over whether your daughter may be taken for an abortion.
5. Read their textbooks. An example is the promotion of Islam in world history or social science. Another is promotion of immorality and homosexuality. This most often occurs in the sex education classes, but some schools have moved the homosexuality agenda to other classes, such as social science, where there is no opt out available.
6. Investigate content of non-textbook information such as reading lists and outside speakers.
7. Ask to see ancillary learning material.
8. If your school says it is dedicated to developing critical thinking skills, find out how this is applied in teaching evolution, climate science, etc.
9. Ask about special "awareness" days such as pink shirt day, earth day, etc.
10. Get a written statement of opt out and opt in policies.
11. Decide if you want your kids to participate in computerized testing and data mining. Find out if paper tests are an option.
12. Find out where your kids will go on field trips. Some go to mosques where students are required to bow before Allah. Be aware, and take appropriate action.
13. Recommend change from an objectionable program or curriculum to a specific one that you prefer. (Don't just complain without a solution.)
14. Advocate for a global change from opt *out* to opt *in* for anything not expressly and thoroughly identified as mandatory class work.

15. Learn what tests will be given to your kids, if they are aligned with Common Core, and if they are stated as “mandatory.”
16. Teach your kids cursive writing if it is not taught at school. Organize an after-school club for learning cursive.
17. Teach your kids to do math in a logical process if they are being taught otherwise at school.
18. Read every form carefully before you sign it. Keep a copy in your files. If you have any question about what it means, ask before signing.

YOU ARE THE PARENT

1. Talk to your kids
2. Set up rules about studying, bedtime, phone use, and social media. Have your kids present when you establish these rules—think them through beforehand, but allow some areas for flexibility, but be prepared to stick with them.
3. Your children are not “entitled to privacy.” It is your responsibility as a parent to know what they are watching on TV, smart phones, computers, etc. They should not be allowed to delete the history. They should not take their smart phones into their bedroom when they are supposed to be going to sleep. You must set limits and not go soft.
4. Tell your kids to refuse to answer certain questions, or entire surveys and tests, if they have any sort of uneasy feeling about them. Let them know they may “get into trouble” with their teacher or principal for standing their ground, but tell them to say that is what their parents instructed them to do. Sometimes they may not even be sure why they feel uncomfortable with the questions, but that’s all right. They shouldn’t be forced into anything that troubles them.
5. Set a time for regular study of God’s Word at home. A good time is right before bed. Give every child a chance to read a portion of the story, lesson, or Scripture as soon as they are able to. Leave time for questions and discussion.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Learn about the issues in education
2. Check out what is happening in your own school district
3. Talk to other parents for their viewpoints
4. Attend school board meetings.
5. Get to know the members of your school board—know their viewpoints.
6. Try to get on the textbook adoption or review committee.
7. When you know where the weaknesses are, ask for changes.
8. Write letters to the members of the district school board expressing your displeasure, and suggesting alternatives.
9. Circulate a petition to send to the district, demonstrating you are not the only one objecting.
10. Run for a position on the school board.
11. If you aren’t running, endorse others you think are good candidates.
12. Start to learn about state laws, determine how they personally affect you and your kids, and see if they need changing.

13. Learn about the educational directives for your state. Most of you will find this involves some level of Common Core.
14. Find out what your state standards are, and what they are based on.
15. Get interested, concerned parents and grandparents to form a group with you to share the tasks.
16. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about matters that concern you.
17. Try to get on a local radio talk show to get your views more widely known.
18. If you don't have success getting changes made, campaign against any more tax increases in any form for your school district.