

POWER OF PARENTING

**A HANDBOOK FOR
NEW PARENTS**

A Guide to All Parents



Compiled
by
Dr Ram Lakhan
Prasad

(BA Dip Ed(USP); MBA (UCAL); DBA (PWU); JP)

&

Mrs Saroj K
Prasad

(BEd.(USP); BTchgEC(QUT); B.Ed (BCAE); Cert Ed(Fj))

Retired Educators

2009

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INTRODUCTION

In his introductory remarks of *Super Parenting* our friend Professor William Maxwell mentions that *there is a growing body of evidence that one of the primary inventors of the pillars of civilization is children.* We could not agree more with this, hence our attempt to write this handbook for new parents.

Our objectives of writing this booklet are very simple. We intend to provide some guidance to new parents so that they can raise their children well enough to meet the challenges of the twenty first century. We all want our children to properly fit into the society as law-abiding, healthy and intelligent citizens. The demands of modern living make our family life difficult and as parents we need to be constantly reminded to act diligently and carefully when it comes to looking after our children well and respectfully.

Saroj, my wife and I have successfully raised four of our own children and

assisted our children to manage our eight grand children. We have also taught thousands of young children in various primary and secondary schools and colleges in Fiji, UK, Australia, USA and New Zealand. We can confidently say that we have adequate experience to give reasonable guidance to our family members, relatives and friends. Of course, the general public can also take our guidance if they desire to raise their own children as we did.

We are mindful of the fact that many of our modern parents are well versed with a lot of excellent ideas and appropriate skills to look after and raise their children and might not need our guidance but they can use some of our ideas to enrich their parental obligations and spread this knowledge to others who may need them. However, those parents who think that they could benefit from our experiences, we would be honoured to share this important information with them.

We sincerely hope that the information contained in this Handbook would help

many of our new parents to find answers to questions about child rearing. Through this publication we also hope to further improve the good relationship between the parents and teachers because we expect that after reading the information contained here, more parents would be ready and eager to consult the teachers of their children about the overall educational, spiritual, physical and emotional developments of their children.

The ever-increasing demands of our modern living, dictate that there should be more frequent and meaningful interactions among the educational agents such as the parents, teachers and the community. This healthy interaction will definitely enlighten all of us to recognise our duties and responsibilities towards our growing up children. Our frank and fair discussions about the total development of our children will assist us improve our education system and we will all contribute effectively to building a better nation.

The ideas contained in this Handbook are not exhaustive but many of our more successful parents and teachers could add their knowledge and experiences to enrich this presentation. We wish you every success in the total development of your children.

One of our friends and colleagues Gordon Dryden presented us his book titled *Unlimited: The New Learning Revolution and the Seven Keys to Unlock it* when we attended his information meeting in Gold Coast. This publication is extremely vital for every parent and teacher of this century.

We, as retired educators and parents, liked the seven keys to unlock the newest revolution. The writers reveal the secret by saying that the revolution is personal, interactive, global, instant, mainly free, easily shared and co-operative. This Learning Web Book can be seen by going to their website: www.thelearningweb.net.

In their introductory remarks the writers say that the keys to unlock the future are

simple but revolutionary and once they are unlocked, that revolution has the power to unleash the combined talents of millions.

Our handbook is one way to assist the revolutionary parents.

'If we are determined to use all the available outward means as well as all our natural abilities to overcome and manage every obstacle that come in our path we will then gradually utilize and develop the unlimited potential that lies within us to succeed in any aspect of life. We just have to think positively and generate our will-power. These internal human gifts will make us see all our successes revealed for us.'

Prasad, RL and SK Prasad.

CHAPTER 1

OUR COMMITMENTS

The new styles of modern living and the increasing demands of family life have prompted us to discuss the issue of raising our children and put some workable suggestions for the benefit of the new parents.

Like many educationists, we too are concerned with the deteriorating behaviour of some of our children both at home and in schools. There is definitely an urgent need for all of us to do some re-thinking and self-analysis as far as the development of our children is concerned.

An educational revolution is needed to unlock the talents of our children.

We must find and use new educational strategies, better teaching methods and appropriate child rearing practices if we want our children to become more

responsible and good citizens. Since the children spend a lot of their free time with their parents, peers and the community, it is vital that these important socialising agencies act and react well with them at all times.

Then and then only, the total development and behaviour of our children will match our expectations. Failure to perform acceptable child rearing practices will produce many more children with behaviour problems at home, school and society.

Children need proper motivation, continued encouragement and a lot of stimulation in their home, at school and in the community. It is the responsibility of everyone to provide these important factors of child development. We must share our good experiences with our children; read, play and sing with our children; interact with meaning, control effectively and give them all the possible love; and above all we should never ever fail to set good behaviour models for them.

In our fast changing environment we have to develop, educate and train our children for future complexities and difficulties. We must look for new ways of interacting with our children and we must broaden our own knowledge about the needs of our growing children. Let us keep abreast with some of the modern educational and technological developments around us.

Once we find out that our strategies are not working according to our plan we can try to do the following:

- (i) Review the essential skills learnt by our children
- (ii) Follow new paths of development
- (iii) Discuss things with others around you
- (iv) Prepare the children to fit well in the home and the community
- (v) Re look at their hygiene, grooming and habits
- (vi) Provide moral, ethical and religious knowledge

When our friend Bill Maxwell gave his book to us on July 18th 2009 he wrote: *To Saroj and Ram Prasad-Australia's Best Parents*. We were humbled by this.

'..well organized people will have learned in childhood, from significant people in their lives- their parents- the basic principle that will enable them to meet the challenges of life with confidence: the orderly person attracts success, the world is intolerant of disorderly.' (William Maxwell, *et el-Super Parenting*)

Remember that our success lies largely in our commitment and eagerness to love, look after and liaise with our children. Never leave them alone; always be there for them and support them all the way.

Let us have the courage and conviction to take the pledge that appears on the next page.

OUR PLEDGE TO OUR CHILDREN

To all our children who are our most cherished hopes, we your parents make this pledge that:

WE WILL :

- Give you our love so that you may grow with trust in yourself and in others.
- Recognize your worth as a person and we will help you to strengthen your sense of belonging.
- Respect your right to be yourself and at the same time help you to understand the rights of others, so that you may experience co-operative living.
- Encourage you to develop initiative and imagination, so that you may

have the opportunity to create freely.

- Encourage your curiosity and your pride in workmanship, so that you may have the satisfaction that comes from achievement.
- Provide the conditions for wholesome play that will add to your learning, your social experience and to your happiness.
- Illustrate by precept and example the value of integrity and the importance of moral courage.
- Encourage you always to seek truth, beauty and goodness in everything and everyone.
- Provide you with all the opportunities possible to develop your own faith in God and humanity.

- Open the way for you to enjoy all forms of art and to pursue them for deepening your understanding of life.
- Work to rid ourselves of prejudice and discrimination so that together we may achieve a truly democratic society.
- Work to lift the standard of living to improve your economic practices, so that you may have the material basis for a full life.
- Provide you with rewarding educational opportunities, so that you may develop your talents and contribute to a better world.
- Protect you against exploitation and undue hazards and help you grow in good health and strength.
- Work to conserve and improve family life and, as needed, to

provide foster care according to your inherent rights.

- Intensify our search for new knowledge in order to guide you more effectively as you develop your potentialities.
- Ask you to join us in a firm dedication to the building of a world society based on freedom, justice and respect.

We take this pledge so that we may grow in joy, in faith in God and in humanity, and in those qualities of vision and of the spirit that will sustain us all and give us a new hope for the future.

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