Raising Muslim children

21st

in the century

Addressing the dangers in today's society

'Raising Muslim children in the 21st century'

*21st Century Tarbiyyah; addressing the dangers in today's society.*

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this book is to educate us as parents with regards to some of the modern-day dangers that are surrounding our children.

This book has been authored by a Muslim youth worker who himself is relatively young and has first-hand experience of many of the issues that are surrounding our children and is therefore in a position to educate us on what to look out for.

Technology is moving at a fast rate and with it Shaytaan's tools are becoming more powerful by the day. If we are not up to date, we could be falling into the plots of shaytaan without even knowing and as a result subjecting our children to it.

As parents there are many areas we need to be clued up on and look out for with regards to our children. It's time to move with the technology for the purpose of protecting our families.
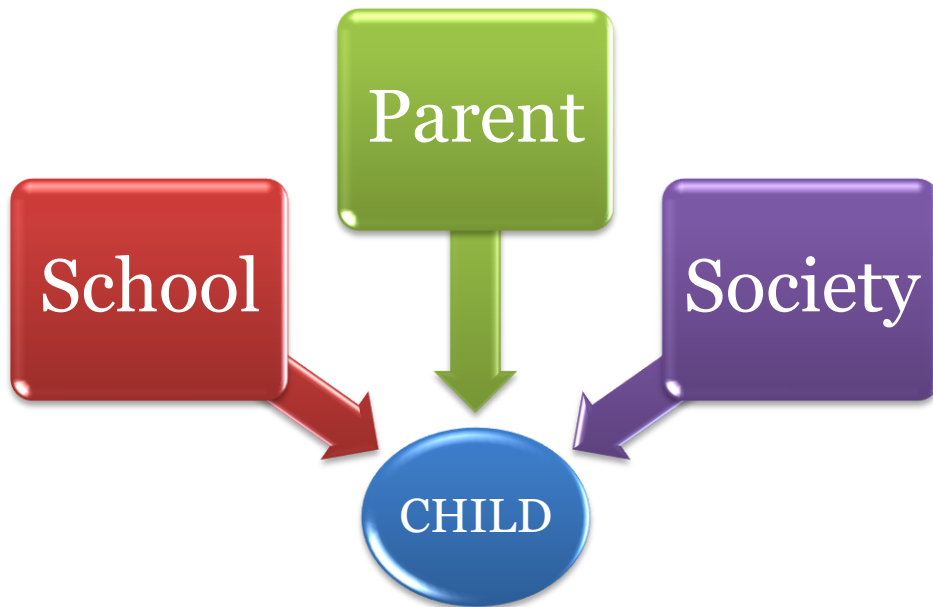
We have all heard of the phrase "children are like sponges". Children learn and pick things up every day absorbing whatever they hear. Above is a diagram of the 3 main areas from where children receive information. These 3 sources are big contributors to children's development. One of the factors I want to emphasize on is the Parents. In today's society parents are not fulfilling their duties with regards to the development of their children and instead are leaving them at the mercy of the school and society (e.g. TV, movies, games). We need to be very careful as Muslim parents that we do not allow society to mould and develop our children as this will result in a mindset that goes against Islam. Also on the school front we need to ensure that we know what is happening otherwise we will not know what our children are learning.

The main factor out of the 3 is the parent. The parent has control over what the child can do hence parents have a big responsibility. We as parents should be teaching and developing our children according to Islam and building a true understanding. We can also, to a limit, control the influence of the society element and this is what this book is about.

We need to make sure that the majority of the teaching, developing, building, and protecting comes from us; the parents. Leaving our children to develop based on school and society alone will have a bad effect on the Islamic development of our children as we live in a non-Islamic society with conflicting ideas.

How we view our children

Children are creations of Allah (swt) and ultimately belong to Him. We should also understand that our children are a blessing from Allah (swt) who have been entrusted to us in order to raise them according to Islam. Our children are also one part of the 'test' of this life and it is in this context that we must view our relationship with them. As children are both a blessing and a test, we can either acquire great reward through fulfilling our responsibility towards them or end up in the fire of hell if we do not.

Allah (swt) states in the Holy Quran:

> *"Your wealth and your children are only a trial, whereas Allah! With Him is a great reward (Paradise). " [64:15]*

> *"O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Let not your wealth nor your children distract you from the Reminder of Allah. For, any who does   so, it is they, they who are the losers." [63:9]*

Allah (swt) has placed in us many emotions including the love for our children. However, our love for them must be channelled Islamically. Does love for our children mean that we push them towards the Dunya and teach them to run after this life or does it mean that we teach them to obey Allah (swt), their Creator, to attain Jannah. Sometimes we allow our children to do the Haraam or push them into things which displease Allah (swt), simply because we want to see them happy. This is all part of Allah's (swt) test to see if we allow our children to distract us from our Islamic responsibility towards them.

A question that we should continuously ask ourselves:

Would we rather see our children happy in Dunya (glitter and glamour of this world)? Or see them suffering in the Aakirah?

The Example of IBRAHIM (as)

> *"And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offering you in sacrifice to Allah). So look what do you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Insha' Allah (if Allah wills), you shall find me from amongst the As-Sabirun (the patient)." 103 Then, when they had both submitted themselves (to the Will of Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering); 104 We called out to him: "O Abraham! 105 You have fulfilled the dream!" Verily thus do We*

reward the Muhsinun (good-doers). 106 Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial. 107 And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (i.e. a ram);" [37:103-107]

Ibrahim (as) always obeyed Allah's (swt) commands and was even ready to sacrifice his own son against his desires. This is because he understood that the child ultimately belongs to Allah (swt) and that this was his test from Allah (swt).

If we really love our children and are concerned for their Islamic well-being, we would be proactive in the following areas;

- building a positive relationship

- developing an Islamic understanding

- providing them with an Islamic environment within the home and beyond, which includes protecting them from things that could harm their deen.

Allah has invested great reward for us in the Islamic effort and sacrifice we make for our children though we must also remember that we will be held accountable for what we do with them.

*"O you who believe! Save yourselves and your **families** from a Fire, the fuel   of which is men and stones" [66:6]*

Instant Messengers

What is it?

From BBM, Whatsapp, Kik messenger, instant messengers that allow you to talk to your friends through texting.

What is a messenger and what can it cause?

A messenger is a application or program where people can talk and socialise through texting. It gives the friends the opportunity to stay in contact with each other and provides groups of friends with a place to talk.

So what really goes on in these chats? Have you ever had a look at the chats that take place? Do you know that many boys and girls have each other's pins (identifications - which they can share to start of chats)?

We need to understand that there is a big difference between face-to-face conversations and written conversations. With face-to-face scenarios people are generally shy and hold back and hesitant in saying certain things.

Whilst on a chat or text, they will write almost anything because they cannot see the person they are communicating with and that person cannot see their expressions either. All it requires is writing out the text and clicking the send button. A lot of messages will not show how the person is expressing what they are saying, so you cannot tell if they are angry or calm, sad or happy.

This type of chat is the starting point for relationships and people will say things much more freely without holding back. Also, foul language is easier to use as again it is not face-to-face and to type such things is often much easier than to say it face-to-face.

One of the biggest problems with instant messengers is that random people are added to their phones as you become more popular if you have more contacts, so youth go out looking for more contacts. This can be very dangerous as you don't know who you are talking to, whether girl or boy, drug dealer etc....

These messengers and other text and chat services have destroyed the way people communicate. Children are wasting a lot of time on their phones just typing away.

Advice

Don't get instant messengers for your child, it's probably not the best move to make. If they want to talk to their friends allow them to speak on the phone. Never use it as a reward for them. If they already have it make sure that you are regularly checking their phones to see what is going on in them and who their contacts are.

Internet

What is it?

> *The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to link several billion devices worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks, of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the World Wide Web (WWW), the infrastructure to support email, and peer-to-peer networks for file sharing and telephony. (Wikipedia)*

Complicated! Here is an easier description: It brings the whole world together through a wire.

The things that take place on the internet include watching movies, emailing, chatting, shopping, playing games, researching, listening to music... and the list goes on.

You probably have it in your house through a router or modem connected to your phone-line. Providers include Talk-Talk, BT, Virgin media and so on.

What can it cause?

We need to be very careful with the internet. Just hearing the fact that it provides open access to the world should make you think (knowing the crazy people out there). This is a very dangerous tool for the youth **IF** it is not controlled. They can download illegal games, watch movies above their age range, access websites with Haraam content such as pornography, listen to music, chat to strangers and friends, watch TV, shop, amongst many other things.

Most of our children have email accounts. Most know how to play online gaming (like miniclip, onlive, etc.). Most know how to download things from the internet such as games, music, movies which can be illegal according to the copyright law and could get you into trouble as gradually it is becoming more traceable, and that's not taking into account how Islamically it is also wrong as it constitutes stealing. We need to understand that stealing has gone to a new level as it now takes on different forms. No

more do we need to shoplift by hiding things in our clothes and bags to steal as it can now be done from the comfort of our own homes on the internet. This is what is open to our children without us parents even knowing.

A major website that our children spend time on is YouTube. This is a website where anyone can make videos and upload them. It can be a good tool if used in the right way but it can also be one of the most dangerous too. On the good side, they could listen to Islamic lectures, educational videos, etc. whilst on the bad side they could watch videos with haram content. Unfortunately much of the content on YouTube is very inappropriate for children.

A lot of children will also use the internet and places like Youtube for listening to music giving you the excuse that they are listening to nasheeds (refer to music section for more info) or Quran, etc.

They also have access to social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Bebo, Flickr, Instagram.

Advice

We need to have control over our internet. A computer mainly becomes dangerous when it is connected to the internet. Never, under any circumstances, give a child free access to the internet, especially in a private room.

Firstly, we need to make sure that our computers are kept in a main room such as the living room, where all family members can see the screen. Secondly, there should be time slots for when our children can go on the internet, it should not be available to them all the time and at any time they wish.

Each and every computer and laptop should have passwords setup on them so that access to it is via yourself. This means that if you go shopping and they are at home they cannot access the computer and subsequently access anything and everything unrestrictedly without you. When they are on the internet, we should walk past constantly to have a look at what they are accessing. Look out for the tabs at the bottom or top of the screen as children know how to minimize screens to hide them.

Nowadays, you can also enable the 'parental lock' feature which allows you to restrict and block websites. Note that this option is not watertight as there are 1000s of websites out there with new ones being added by the minute, hence you will not be able to block them all.

Under the internet, there are a few sub categories that link to this which we will look at in this book.

Social networking

What is it?

A social networking service is a platform to build social networks or social relations among people who, share interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections (Wikipedia)

Social Networking allows people to talk to friends, upload pictures, meet new people, and share lots of stuff.

Sites include Facebook, Twitter, Bebo, MSN, Flickr, Instagram.

Cost?

You can open up accounts for free, but there are age restrictions. Most youngsters simply lie about their age so it is easy to setup.

What can it cause?

Youngsters are spending considerable amount of time on social networking sites, especially sites like Facebook.

Facebook allows you to chat to your friends, upload your pictures and let everyone know what you are up to. It also gives you a list of potential friends you may want to add. Most children have accounts with their whole life uploaded on them. If you ever saw one of these accounts, you would see their name, age, gender, where they go, pictures of themselves, their friends (male and female), and regular chats going on with a mixture of people.

Facebook and other social networking sites are the main cause of gender mixing which leads to Fahsha (shameless acts), as it allows boys and girls to meet and talk freely as it is online.

It is very easy to say what you want with the opportunity to see who you are talking to. Young sisters who otherwise wear hijab, take pictures of themselves without hijab and upload these pictures to their accounts which is inappropriate and dangerous as it can be viewed by boys and anybody else.

Advice

Do not allow your kids to open an account with any social networking sites as you will be opening the doors to a new range of sins for your child to commit.

Some of us send our children to Muslim schools or single-sex schools but then allow them to go on social networking sites where they are talking freely to boys and girls.

If you see any of the logos (shown on the side) on the screen you need to question why they are accessing these sites.

Remember that your child might be an angel but if you open the doors to sins to them they will get drawn in. If you light a spark in a forest, it will very quickly turn into a big forest fire.

Money

What is it?

What are we referring to here? Lunch money, Pocket money, Eid money, etc.

What can it cause?

What do children get up to with money? Many of them save up for mobile phones, clothes, games, sweets, and sometimes worse things like drugs.

Advice

We need to make sure as parents that we are like accountants for our children. We need to know how much money goes in and what comes out. We should collect all receipts for anything that they have purchased and log any money that has been given to them.

Never let a child have money to spend freely, because you will not know what he or she is spending it on.

For instance with lunch money, make sure you tell them to bring receipts as you do not want your child giving money to others, or spending it on rubbish.

One common thing that happens amongst children is that they spend their lunch money to buy sweets (haraam and halaal). We need to understand the damages that high levels of sugar causes to a child. Some of the consequences are hyperactivity followed by a low feeling (drowsiness) where they become very moody and cranky, which in turn effects their concentration and behaviour, which in turn affects their school results. So next time you get a call from the school about your child's behaviour, ask yourself what they ate before they went to school or what they had in their bags.

Another thing lunch money gets spent on is fast food such as chicken and chips. We need to make sure our children are eating healthy foods and not always eating fried foods as these can cause health issues in the long term such as obesity, laziness, clogged arteries leading to strokes and heart attacks, etc. Make sure they have a balanced lunch to take with them instead of letting them buy from the shops. If you give them money, ask for receipts to check they aren't buying, chocolates, sweets, crisp and fried food.

Any Eid money or pocket money that granny gave take a note of it as they could be spending this on things you do not know about such as 18 rated games, credit for phones or in some circumstances drugs.

We would never imagine our children spending money on drugs but we need to wake up to the reality and facts. There is an example of a child who was caught after many years taking gold from home and changing it to money to buy, amongst other things, drugs with the parents clueless about what was going on.

We as parents need to keep up to date with society and what's going on. This will enable us to know what they should and shouldn't spend their money on. Be careful especially around them buying over-age games (next topic) and clothes that are inappropriate (see 'Fashion').

Games

What is it?

These are the games consoles like the PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, PC, Nintendo Wii, etc. There are a wide variety of games that can be played on them

What can it cause?

Most parents are uneducated about games and as a result children take advantage of this when it comes to buying the game they want.

Many children play games that are above their age range. Children 6 years of age are playing 18 rated games. Some of the content you will find in these games include violence, foul language, nudity, stealing and killing. Kids pick up and imitate many inappropriate words and behaviour from it.

These consoles also have the ability to access the internet (refer to internet topic), and talk to their friends through a headset.

Advice

Games are classified with age ratings for a reason; they can be very damaging to the mindset of a child. So next time your child takes you to the game shop with him or her because they cannot buy the game they want without an adult question them. Don't be so gullible and accept their story of how it is a game rated for children. Look at the age ratings if you don't understand what the game is about.

Games are also very addictive and children end up wasting a lot of time on them. It stops them from learning and they become very reluctant to do any Islamic duties as they have found something more interesting to do.

Some of the games also include very bad content such as swearing, half naked people, killing, stealing, etc. Ask yourself: Is this what we want our children to learn?

We need to be up to date so that when our children come and ask for a game, we research into it or ask someone who is clued up on this.

TV – Satellite Channels - Movies

What is it?

Available in a variety of formats such as movies, programmes, cartoons, etc.

What can it cause?

All movies have age ratings which many parents seem to ignore or overlook. We need to understand that age ratings are there for a reason. As Muslims, even the movies without age ratings need to be checked as these contain scenes that are inappropriate for us as Muslims (which the non-Muslims feel are appropriate).

Many children from a very young age are coming into schools talking about the latest movies or soaps which are well above their age. These movies and programmes often contain scenes with violence, killing, nudity, relationships, foul language and even scenes of devils and made up characters (which is not appropriate for Muslim adults let alone children). Then we wonder why our children swear, fight and try to imitate characters.

One of the main areas regarding which we need to be careful is the male and female interaction scenes. Many parents think the solution is to keep changing the channel, but these images and scenes are constantly presented in adverts and programmes. If you allow your child to watch this it will provoke the sexual desire.

As humans we have been created with different desires such as the desire to eat, so we have the urge to eat when we get hungry. On the other hand, the sexual desire needs to be provoked, and once you provoke the sexual desire it becomes very hard to control. So do not allow the movies to instigate it and put such thoughts into their heads from an early age. When your child gets involved in haraam, remember that it could be us that instigated it through allowing them to watch TV, as this desire is one of the most powerful.

Watching movies and programmes also makes our children very inactive resulting in them becoming lazy. Instead of playing sports or outdoor games, they are content with sitting in front of a screen watching TV.

Advice

TURN OFF YOUR T.V! TV has desensitised us and our families. If this happened in front of our eyes, many of us would have something to say, so why is it ok on the TV.

Why would we allow our children to have free access to TV channels to the extent that some of our children have it in their bedrooms. The adverts alone should be enough for us to close it, especially in today's world

In Saheeh al-Bukhaari (6343) it is reported that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Every son of Adam has his share of zinaa decreed for him, and he will undoubtedly get his share. The eye commits zinaa and its zinaa is looking. The tongue commits zinaa and its zinaa is speaking; the feet commit zinaa and their zinaa is walking; the hands commit zinaa and their zinaa is touching. The heart longs and desires for something and the private parts confirm that or deny it."

Some of us are so detached from reality that we allow our kids to watch whatever they want. Some of us buy our kids Hannah Montana bags and WWF (world wrestling federation) bags with half naked men on them and don't realise who we are allowing them to take as role models.

We need to bring back family time where we sit and talk, have discussions, watch a documentary together allowing us opportunities to have discussions. Don't treat them like little kids, let them speak and share their ideas so that you know what they are thinking and subsequently can develop them to think Islamically. Don't make your living rooms a place where no one talks and the TV is the parent.

Mobile phones

What is it?

Mobile phones including smartphones especially those that come on contracts. They have the capability to go on the internet, download apps, make calls, texts and chat on programs like Whatsapp and BBM. (Refer back to Internet section, also refer back to BBM and Whatsapp)

What can it cause?

Many parents buy their children contract phones which have access to the internet, calls and text messages. Any child who is given this level of freedom will most likely spend half his day chatting on Whatsapp or BBM. They will also be on the internet searching and looking up all sorts of things. Today's trend is to have smartphones which includes the ability to have group chats. So beware as your child could be speaking to anyone.

Advice

Don't buy your children contract phones. Stick to 'pay as you go' which will allow you to be in control of the money going in. Without the contract they will not have access to the internet which restricts many of the undesired things from happening. The best option is to get a cheap standard phone on 'pay as you go' and just let them know that you will call them so that they don't need credit. Only get them a smart phone if it is necessary, but make sure it is 'pay as you go'. Keep in mind that if you have wireless internet in your house your child will be able to access the internet on the smart phone at home.

Computers

What is it?

PCs, Laptops, Ipads, Macbooks

What can it cause?
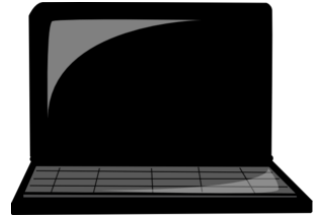
Computers give children access to the web, where they can access and find anything (refer to Internet section). Most computers nowadays are connected to the internet. Children are very skilled in using computers to the point that they have outsmarted the adults. As our children have been raised up with computers they know them inside out. They know how to play around with the computer and hide what they don't want you to see. Computers are the main access points to many of the topics discussed e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Internet, Youtube, online gaming and downloading. This is where your child will start his chat room discussions and sending emails to all the people that he or she knows.

Advice

Every household has a computer in today's world but we need to be up to date on how to operate one. Whatever we give our children we should be educated on how to use it first. If your child asks for something, research into it or ask someone you know who might be a bit more educated. With computers and laptops we should try to keep them in our main living rooms with the screens facing towards everyone sitting in the room. This way you can see what is on the screen and what they are up to. Never allow your child to have his/her own laptop or computer, instead keep a central computer. Make sure you restrict the timings on the internet and filter everything they are accessing.

Friends

Who is it?

This could be anyone including peers from
school and also their cousins or other relatives.

Advice

Many parents allow their children to go out with school friends without checking who
they are.

*Rasool (saw) said, "A man will follow on the religion of his close friend, so let each of
you look to who he takes a close friend." Narrated by al-Tirmidhi*

Children will imitate their friends as they are of similar age and they have things in
common. Most of the time the most popular child is the one who is followed or imitated,
and usually this child is the one that gets into trouble at school, has the latest fashion,
watches all sorts on TV and is the 'streetwise kid'. It is according to how much dunya
the child has which makes other children look up to them. Children don't want to be the
outcast and the one who is not up to date with the latest trends and programmes. So
even though some of us parents protect our children from a lot of things, the one we
overlook and don't realise is the friends that they have in school.

We as parents firstly need to ask ourselves, who are they? We don't even know our
children's friends' names let alone know what they get up to. Don't let them go to other
people's homes even if you know the parents if you don't know the child. Don't fall for
the sweet talk or the nice actions that they put on for you when they see you (e.g.
Assalam-alaikum Uncle/Auntie, etc.).

Before you let your child play with any friends of theirs, you need to do some research
on them. Find out what they are like at school, what they get up to, do their parents give
them full freedom of TV and games, what is their speech like, do they talk street
language. Because if you don't, they will be the ones to teach your child the f-word and
how to trick the parents.

It is sad that some parents allow their children to get involved in all these things and
don't want to protect their child because they are too busy, so for them these are ways
to stop the child from annoying them, and this lack of care which in turn affects other
children whose parents are trying to protect their children to the best of their ability.

This is a very difficult area to overcome as we are not in the school to protect them. We
will never know what goes on, so we can only try our best and remind our children when
they come home, and do our best with them at home. We must try to build their mind
with a true understanding of Islam so they are able to think for themselves, not an Islam
which is forced upon them.

Fashion

What is it?

From jackets, trainers, gloves, bracelets, to all other clothing items

Advice

If your child starts asking for certain types of clothing, then you need to be on alert. Most youngsters will follow the fashion of street boys (also referred to as gangsters). They will try to keep up with the latest fashion or whatever the most popular child has in the school. Don't give into your child asking for certain types of trainers or jackets or any type of clothing. You need to keep an eye on the latest street fashion.

Some will say, 'oh its only clothes, it's not a big deal' but remember that with clothes comes the behaviour. For example, if a child wears football clothes, he thinks he's a footballer. If you allow your child to buy street clothes and dress like street boys, they will soon walk like them with a limp, then talk like them with slang and swearing, after that the attitude and eventually you will see them on the streets with the drug addicts.

Buy your children standard clothes, beware of brand name clothes that may affect their personality. Try to keep up to date with the latest fashion so you know what to look out for. You probably will notice what to look out for when you drive and see a gang of boys dressed in a certain way.

Music

This can consist of music on the TV, internet, included in films, background tunes. Most music can now be listened to free of the internet, and if you are a regular TV watcher, you will be listening to something all the time.

So what can music cause?

Many of us don't realise how dangerous music actually is and what it can cause. If you study books on music, and observe patterns of people who listen to music you will slowly start to realise the effects. Music can shape a person's behaviour and life. Music is able to bring out anti social behaviour, make people emotional, get people sexually active amongst other effects. For example, rap music makes youngsters feel powerful and makes them act and dress like street boys (gangsters). Don't you see the guys in the cars all kitted out with loud rap music on, as it makes them feel like they are invincible. If your child is listening to this music, most likely his dress code will slowly change to a street boy, and not to long after that his behaviour and attitude too. Now do you understand why it was described as the tool of shaytaan? This topic is actually a wide topic which I advise all parents to look into further.

Advice

Parents, you need to cut down the T.V as most adverts, movies, programmes involve music. Also refer back to some of the previous sections about internet and youtube to make sure they do not have access to these. The sad thing is that our Muslim children know just as much about the latest music and singers as do the non-Muslims. Muslim girls are screaming at boy bands and talking about them in schools because parents are not watching what their children are doing.

Remember the opportunities to listen to music include the TV, internet and even their mobiles. Make sure you are alert and pay attention to what they are talking about because you will be able to pick up if they are listening to music. Remember if you don't want their behaviour and attitude to change keep them away from it.

We are losing the minds of the youth to western culture

Most of the topics that we have mentioned in this book are killing the minds of our youth. Many years ago children were able to sit and listen to hours of lectures and learn many things. Nowadays a child's attention span is barely 5 seconds. They are also not interested in learning anything relating to Islam. Children are only interested in playing as this is what they do on a daily basis. We need to start removing things like games,

movies, cartoons, music, social networking, mobiles, etc. from their lives so that their mind can develop and they can reflect more. We are creating a generation of immature children whilst the youngsters in earlier generations were much more mature.

Alternatives

By now most readers will say 'what can they do if we don't allow anything, they will get bored'. Below is a list of things that one could use as alternatives which would be better for our children's upbringing, some have already been mentioned before:

- Whilst locating the computer in the main room allow them to use it
- allocate time slots for each child to use the computer
- activate internet security as an addition to the computer in the main room
- allow them to have 'pay as you go' mobiles to ensure you have more control
- select suitable games which are appropriate for their age. Try to choose games that the family can play together to build a bond. In addition, other games which can be played together are Pictionary and Scrabble.
- Watch documentaries and programmes together as a family which will lead to discussions
- Instead of allowing them to go out with friends, why not spend time with them and build a bond (this means that you need to become more active)
- Have Islamic sessions and discussions in the house to make the children start thinking
- When you have researched into the friends they have, allow them to come to the house and go out
- Involve the children in household duties, so that they learn responsibility (boys with the dad, girls with the mum)
- Try to pray Salah together as a family. Stick up timetables or Athaan clocks and make sure the family pray together (or boys and dad go to Masjid). Also ensure you read your Salah on time so it shows the children the importance of Salah
- Make sure your children sleep on time (after Isha) instead of allowing late bed times as this makes them over-sleep and miss Fajr. This also causes them to wake up feeling lazy the next morning.
- Work together with your local Muslim community to set up activities for our Muslim youth such as football leagues, camping trips, days out, etc.

We need to use our imagination so that we can involve our children more in our lives. It will involve more of our time but remember you are fulfilling an Islamic duty.

Trust

Remember children have the strongest desires so it needs to be controlled by the adult.

Most parents will say, "my child would never do that". A lot of parents think there children are angels, and they would never do any of the stuff that we have mentioned in this book. Don't be so naive, accept the truth that your kids live in the same society as other kids and if you haven't kept up to date or been involved with your child, they are probably involved in 90% of the things mentioned.

It's time to wake up and face the truth, and see how we will move forward in creating a good environment for the future generation, as we live in a very difficult world, with haraam happening all around us.

Make your children earn the trust. As time goes on trust them with a few responsibilities. But remind them, trust is built over years but can be broken in seconds. Remember that your children know all the words to convince you to buy them something, they are the best sales people out there. They can convince you to buy them mobiles, clothes, toys, anything they want. Don't let them cover your eyes, be more aware and think carefully before you accept anything, read the small print before you sign their deals, e.g. I will clean the house if you get me sweets, or I will get A's if you buy me a contract phone.

Allah (swt) will account us as parents as to why we allowed them all of these things. Yes you might have got them the best in dunya, getting them the A grades, but if it cost you all of the things mentioned in this book, one day you will realise the damage you did to them in the Aakhirah.

Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an:

> *"O believers, save yourselves and your family from the Hellfire whose fuel is men and stones"*

Parenting has become very tough in today's world and we understand that it is very difficult to keep track of all the things mentioned in this book, but we must try our best. We have to do the best that we can then leave the rest in Allah (swt) hands, because guidance is from Allah (swt). We have the power and control over what the child can access, like internet, computers, games, toys, T.V, so let's make sure we do our bit. This is the way we build the next generation.

Answering the question – 'They are only kids it's ok for them to try it out, they will learn and stop as they get older'.

Are you waiting for your child to join a gang, start smoking, become a drug addict, commit Zina, make foul language his first language, become a gaming addict, get into gang wars and loose his life.

Are you waiting for your child to destroy his mind set, not allowing any Islam to enter his heart. Remember a kid will keep eating sweets until the parent controls them.

The Prophet (saw) told us that we should teach them Salah from the age of 7 years. So it would train them up ready for later. Wake up to reality, no child suddenly switches over from haraam to halaal as soon as the age of accountability comes in. Especially when the mindset now carries a lot of corruption from society.

Though this book is just the beginning of our learning journey into the dangers of technology it is sufficient for us to understand the importance of keeping up-to-date.

It's time to learn about the future.