

OUR MISSION

“Partnering with families to help children become new creations in Christ through the Word of God.”

If you have questions, feel free to contact us.

Ministry Directors

Linda Hrivnak
lhrivnak@theorchardefc.org
224.764.4027

Arlington Heights Campus
Kristin Catapano
kcatapano@theorchardefc.org
224.764.4026

Barrington Campus
Wendi Serna
wserna@theorchardefc.org
847.749.4099



Arlington Heights Campus
1330 North Douglas Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847.392.4840

Barrington Campus
(Temporarily meeting at Hersey High School)
1900 East Thomas Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

www.theorchardefc.org

THE
PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE
CHURCH AND
THE HOME



THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE HOME

A study that was done by Mickie O'Donnell of Children's Ministries of America, found that, in a typical home, the average number of hours a child spends at school, in front of the TV, at home, and at church, it looks something like this:

15,600 hours of school

15,288 hours of TV/video

74,232 hours at home (not sleeping, not at school and not watching TV)

800 hours of Sunday school/Church influence

The truth is that your influence as parents is so much more significant than you think it may be. You have the daily opportunity to "repeat God's commands again and again to your children." You have the privilege of "talking about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again." Scripture tells us to "tie these {commands} to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Many of us are significantly growing ourselves during our parenting years. If we didn't grow up in a solid Christian home, we probably didn't have a good model for spiritually training our children. Thus, it is not for lack of desire that we fail to make a plan for training and disciplining our children, but often rather a lack of knowledge and confidence. We simply don't know where to begin, and then life gets busy with our jobs, kid's activities, and church, and suddenly there doesn't seem to be any time to do something intentional at home!

We understand the challenges that are before families today. We ourselves have experienced the pressures, time restraints, and battle fatigue from fighting against a culture that is quite contrary to the life that Christ calls us to live.

The good news is that you are not alone. If you

feel uncertain about where to begin, we are available to help you think through a spiritual plan for your children. To get you started, we have provided some simple and deliberate things you can do to point your children to a growing relationship with the Lord.

1. **Develop a plan.** Give some thought to where you would like your children to be when they leave your home. Besides having received Christ as their Savior, do you want them to be having their own quiet time? Do you hope they will have a heart for missions? Do you want them to understand tithing? Would you like them to be a leader in their youth group, or stand up for their faith in their school? Think about how you will help your children desire these things as well, and how you will help them to grow in their faith.
2. **Model your faith!** It is important to model a vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Let your children see you in God's Word and in prayer. Let them "catch you" praising God for His goodness and asking Him for forgiveness.
3. **Read God's Word.** Read the Bible and Bible stories to your children, and help them to apply the truths to their own lives. Use your reading time to snuggle and pray with your children. Set aside specific times for teaching God's Word. Mornings and evenings around meals or bedtime are often good times.
4. **Choose wisely.** As we consider the responsibility we have, it is important to be intentional about what we will do, as well as when we will do it. This will require choosing children's activities with prayer and great thought. As families we must ruthlessly guard our time together, whether it be in regard to meals, teaching, serving, or playing.
5. **Team up with other like-minded families.** Ask God to provide other couples to meet with for the purpose of prayer, encouragement, and accountability in parenting. These families can become good role models for your children as well.
6. **Worship together.** The Bible provides many illustrations of family worship where children grew up observing their parents worshiping and showing reverence for the almighty God. We encourage you to set aside Sunday morning as a time to worship with your children, as well as attend age appropriate teaching in Sunday school.

7. **Love your spouse.** Don't forget to care for your marriage. Date your mate, and make each other a priority. When child-rearing is at its busiest, it is tempting to put your relationship with your spouse on hold. Take time for each other every day and you will reap the benefits of a strong marriage in the years to come. It will also be among the greatest gifts you can give to your children!
8. **Pray!** Remember to pray for your children. As hard as we try, we are imperfect parents. We are not able to do the work of the Spirit. Thankfully God has given us the gift of prayer, enabling us to partner with Him in the spiritual growth of our children. Since God has given us the amazing privilege of interceding for our children, let us not miss the opportunity to go to the throne on their behalf every single day (Ephesians 3:14-21).

In Children's Ministries, we desire to partner with parents in every way we can. We are strongly committed to using those relatively few hours we have with the children who come to Sunday school and Awana in the best possible way. We choose biblically sound curriculum, train our teachers, and make church a place where children enjoy coming. We take our responsibility seriously and it is our goal not only to present the Gospel clearly along the way, but to help children grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Finally, remember that God promises to equip us for the things He calls us to do, as we go to Him for wisdom and direction each day. He is faithful! Let us be driven to our knees as we recognize the high calling before us, which is to raise up children who will know, love and serve God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. God bless your family.