

PRODIGAL CHILDREN

by Teri Ebert

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1. Consider the law of the harvest.
2. Protect children better.
3. Get a diagnosis for health problems and learning disabilities.
4. Touch more, talk more.
5. Play music together.
6. Have indoor pets.
7. Change it up.
8. Fight darkness with light.
9. Treat children as investigators.
10. Fight the digital monster.
11. Be aware of fears.
12. Don't reassure yourself that "all is well" when you feel uneasy.
13. Get professional help for persistent darkness.
14. Help them take personal ownership of health challenges.
15. Fight victim mentality with empowerment.
16. Search out opportunities to learn a vocation and to serve an internship.
17. Practice personal management skills for living away from home.
18. Practice personal management skills needed for a mission.
19. Begin their personal collections of gospel materials.
20. Find opportunities for meaningful, significant service.
21. Parenting is NOT over when they turn 18!
22. Be clear about family policies for money, living arrangements, and grades.
23. Think twice about college dormitories.
24. Tell them to change an unpleasant situation when possible.
25. Understand the call to serve a mission.
26. Help grown children create their own vision.
27. Become peers in the gospel.
28. Don't live with guilt.
29. Pray like it all depends on God; work like it all depends on you.
30. Write love letters.
31. Fight for your children.
32. Enlist other parents.
33. Hold fast to your integrity.
34. Soften pain with joy.

The Grand Pattern

		Dependent		Independent
		Early Teen	Teen	Young Adult
		Middle School	High School	College
Agency Development				
Main Concerns		Me		
Source of Motivation	Needs	Companions	Parents	Internal
Kinds of Purpose	Rewards	Something greater than self Change the world	Old Law Blessing / Consequences	New Law Consecration
Key Relationships	Family	Peers Personal definition	The "pack" / Opposite sex Isolation	Companion
Agency Stages	Choices	Modified agency	Self determination	Total Self-determination
Parenting Principles				
Parent relationship	Choices / Obedience	Choices / Trust	My child Parent covenant / contract	
Parent role	Partner	Guide Companion when peers fail	Ally	Peer
Education	Creativity Experiences	Skills / Service	Vocation	Profession / Life mission

Teri Ebert has been homeschooling her 7 children for 18 years. She is the founder of Kindred Learning, an educational resource company and is the designer of the Four Year Plan.