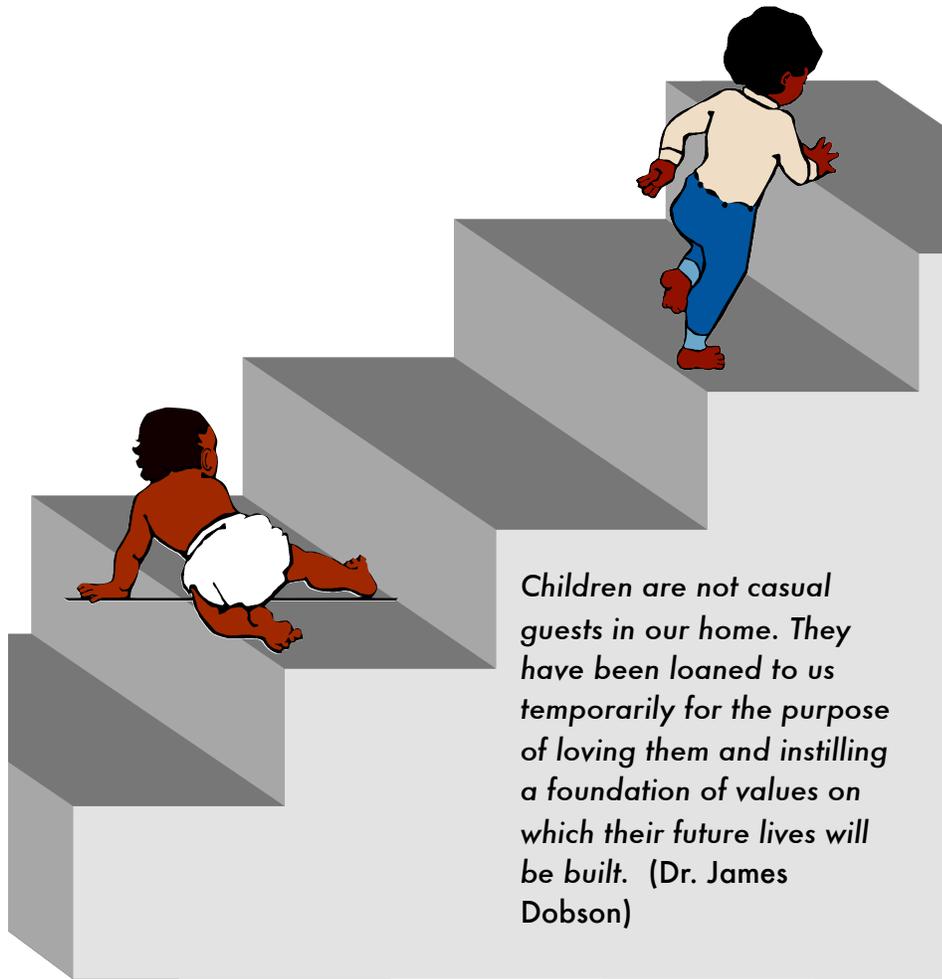




Accountability



Children are not casual guests in our home. They have been loaned to us temporarily for the purpose of loving them and instilling a foundation of values on which their future lives will be built. (Dr. James Dobson)

Dad, Mom, hold your children accountable to agreed spending plans (budgets) and to get to agreed goals and plans. The budget's size is important. Each child is different. So, with each, work out his or her needs, and add a few wants in his or her budget. Ensure your child understands his goals and the likely effects of not reaching them. Take them on shopping trips using their spending plan as their money maps.

Hold them accountable for these items that their budgets should include:

- **Giving:** They should know God owns everything. Teach them to ask God to show them how to give.
- **Capital Fund:** Encourage them to save regularly for

specific buys. The Capital Fund is the basis for children to be debt free adults. Teach them to borrow only to buy a home, and to ignore credit card offers. Encourage them to save 50% of all their income. Use their Capital Fund only for capital items (stuff that will last over two years) such as a car, skateboard, bicycle, wedding expenses, university education expenses, down payment on a home, buy and repair major appliances, and the like.

Their Capital Fund is for the same purposes as yours.

- **Clothing:** Buy all their clothes from their yearly budget.
- **Entertainment:** This item is essential. Its main purpose is

teach them cost of eating out, going to the movies, video rentals, and so on. They should know eating out is a major reason folks fall in debt.

As well, hold your children accountable to do contracted work. Teach them to develop spending habits that honour God. As proper, let them decide, let them stumble, but teach them to learn from their mistakes. It's tough, but allow this freedom and be ready to rescue them from harm. Praise and encourage them. Most important, let them know, with Jesus living in them, they can do everything God wants done. Love them unconditionally, as Jesus loves each of us.