

The Age-by-Age Tarbiyah Chart

*A Companion to Raising Children the Prophetic Way / A
Darul Hikmah Bonus*

This is a one-page reference for where your child sits right now and what matters most at that stage, and the Prophetic anchor behind it. Keep it visible on the fridge, inside of a cupboard door and check back as your child moves through each stage.

Stage	What Matters Most Right Now	The Anchor
Before Birth	The religious alignment and tranquility (sakinah)	<i>"Choose the one who is religiously committed."</i>

Stage	What Matters Most Right Now	The Anchor
	between spouses. This is the home a child inherits before they ever arrive in it.	(Bukhārī and Muslim)
First Seven Years	Play, affection, and attachment and not a delay before real parenting. This is the actual foundation everything else is built on.	The Prophet ﷺ kissing his grandchildren and carrying them on his shoulders (Bukhārī)
Seven to Ten	Teaching ṣalāh directly and patiently. This is a place of real responsibility, real trust, real instruction and not yet correction.	"Order your children to pray at seven." (Abū Dāwūd)

Stage	What Matters Most Right Now	The Anchor
Ten to Puberty	Firm, explained boundaries and Consistency between parents. The pen is still lifted. So, correction should still be gentle and formative.	<i>"The pen is lifted from a child until puberty."</i> (Abū Dāwūd)
Adolescence	Dialogue over bare command. Real accountability has begun. Treat questions as searching, not rebellion.	Ibrāhīm's own honest search for truth (Sūrah al-An'ām, 6:75–79)

The One Question Worth Asking at Every Stage

Whatever the age, the same underlying question applies: is what I'm doing right now building genuine understanding my child will carry on their own or only compliance that depends on me being in the room?

Two Things That Never Change, at Any Age

Love before rules

Introduce Allah through gratitude and mercy before introducing Him through warning.

Correct the moment, not the child

"You left this undone" builds. "You're so lazy" wounds. Say the first. Never the second.

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