

## Developing Children's Behavior at the Masjid: Tips for Parents and Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians should model respectful behavior themselves to set a good example for their children.
- Prepare children beforehand by explaining mosque etiquette and the importance of being respectful.
- Explain acceptable and unacceptable behavior at the masjid and consequences clearly.
- Involve children in masjid activities when possible; including what you are doing. (e.g., performing salat, reading Quran or making du'a').
- Use role-play and stories to teach mosque etiquette to familiarize children with masjid routines and expectations.
- Share age-appropriate Islamic learning materials and activities with children to teach them about mosque etiquette and maintaining a respectful atmosphere during prayers.
- Encourage children to ask questions and learn more about Islam and the masjid environment.
- Gently remind children about expected behavior.
- Gradually reinforce lessons at home.
- Use positive reinforcement over harsh punishment. "*Allah (SWT) likes kindness in all things*" (Bukhari).
- Lead by example and provide clear instructions on how children should behave.
- Use positive language: Instead of "Do not run," use "Walk safely and calmly."
- Praise good behavior, including nearby children.
- Explain rewards for good behavior and consequences for misbehavior.
- Encourage children to make the right choices.
- Address misbehavior calmly and discreetly.
- Criticize actions, not the child.
- Build self-esteem through a positive environment.
- Show mercy and consider children's feelings. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "***He is not one of us who shows no mercy to our young ones and does not acknowledge the honor due to our elders***" (Tirmidhi).  
Remember: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated: "***Softness beautifies things and when that softness is taken away, they lose their glamour***" (Bukhari.)