

# Toddler Life Stage PARENTING “PUNCH LIST”



In home construction and remodeling, a “**punch list**” is used during a project to outline the items that need to be covered to complete a job well. Likewise, Watermark Family Ministry has assembled this **Parenting Punch List** that you can use as a guide to be prepared for parenting a **Toddler** child. The material presented below is targeted towards parenting ages 6 months to 2 years.

## PILLARS

Like a house, our parenting must have a firm foundation to raise courageous Christian leaders in an ever-changing world that has lost its way. That foundation is God’s Word and we encourage you to consider the following “pillars” that anchor how we parent our kids:

### MODEL

**Deuteronomy 6:6** calls us as parents to model our faith to our children by keeping God’s word in our hearts.

Here are some ways to **Model** during the **Toddler** life stage:

AREA	ACTION
You	Connect with God through Bible Study and prayer <b>Web Resource:</b> <a href="http://jointhejourney.com">jointhejourney.com</a>
Your Marriage	Ruthlessly pursue oneness with your spouse in the areas of communication, intimacy and fellowship. Prioritize date nights! <b>Web Resource:</b> <a href="http://marriagehelp.org">marriagehelp.org</a>
Community	Resist isolation by connecting with others and parenting in community <b>Web Resource:</b> <a href="http://watermark.org/plano/ministries/community">watermark.org/plano/ministries/community</a>
External Focus	Serve our immediate community and the world <b>Web Resource:</b> <a href="http://watermark.org/impact">watermark.org/impact</a> and <a href="http://watermark.org/familyserve">watermark.org/familyserve</a>

### TRAIN

**Proverbs 22:6** calls us to train up a child in the way they should go so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. The Bible is the ultimate resource for parents. As we are told in **2 Timothy 3:16**, “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”. The resources provided are not meant to be a replacement of but a supplement to your regular reading of God’s word and your prayers for wisdom and discernment in leading your children.

Here are some ways to **Train** yourself during the **Toddler** life stage:

ACTION	RESOURCE
Read	<b>Shepherding a Child’s Heart</b> - Tripp
Listen	<b>Leaving a Lasting Legacy</b> - Todd and Alex Wagner <a href="http://watermark.org/message/2138">watermark.org/message/2138</a>
Attend	<b>The Nest</b> , serving parents of young children, select Fridays <b>Web Resource:</b> <a href="http://watermark.org/plano/ministries/the-nest">watermark.org/plano/ministries/the-nest</a>

ACTION	RESOURCE
Check Out	<b>Watermark Kids Preschool Blog</b> at <a href="http://watermark.org/blog/preschool">watermark.org/blog/preschool</a>

Here are some ways to **Train** your child during the **Toddler** life stage:

TOPIC	PRAY FOR WISDOM REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ACTION AREAS:
Spiritual Development	How does God want us to pour into our children to grow in their faith? <b>Book Resources:</b> <i>Revolutionary Parenting</i> - Barna; <b>For Kids:</b> <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i>
Discipline	What is our plan going to be once when the time comes for us to discipline? How are we being called by God to discipline our children? <b>Book Resource:</b> <i>Don't Make me Count to Three</i> - Plowman <b>Web Resource:</b> <b>Reclaiming Discipline</b> - Millye Hale, <a href="http://watermark.org/message/3702">watermark.org/message/3702</a>
Media Management	How does God desire us to steward our time with and use of media? Have we set up appropriate protections to guard our children from accidental exposure to inappropriate content?
Sexual Purity	How am I educating myself to protect my child's sexual purity in the future? How does God want me to plan and prepare our hearts and home to address sexual purity? <b>Book Resource:</b> <i>How &amp; When to Tell Your Kids about Sex</i> - Jones
Stewardship	How are we being called to steward financial resources as a family? What messages does God want us to send our children about our relationship with money and material possessions?
Time Management	How is God calling us to manage the time He has given us in this season? What kind of pace are we setting? Is it sustainable?

## PRAY

**Ephesians 6:18** calls us as parents to pray at all times in the Spirit so that we are parenting according to God's plan and our child's unique design. This includes praying for wisdom and discernment as we seek direction on how to approach key Decision Points related to the **Toddler** life stage.

Here are some ways to **Pray** during the **Toddler** life stage:

ACTION	RESOURCE
Pray	<b>5 Godly Characteristics of a Man and Woman Printable</b> - Todd Wagner

## TRUST

**Proverbs 3:5-6** calls us as parents to trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lead on our own understanding. We are called to acknowledge him in all situations and He will make our path straight. These "pillars" of Model, Pray, Trust and Train are underpinned by living out **Matthew 22: 37-39** to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves.



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