

Contents

Arabic honorific symbols used in this book.....	10
Pronunciation and Transliteration Chart.....	11
About the word <i>Lord</i>	15
Publisher’s Note.....	16
Preface.....	18
Introduction	19
<u>PART ONE: THE FOUNDATIONS OF</u> NURTURING EEMÂN IN CHILDREN.....	23
CHAPTER 1: ‘Aqeedah, Eemân, and Ihsân.....	24
The meaning of ‘aqeedah.....	24
The importance of Islamic ‘aqeedah.....	26
The relationship between ‘aqeedah and eemân	26
The meaning of eemân and <i>mu’min</i>	26
The meaning of ihsân.....	31
Relation to parenting	33
CHAPTER 2: The Responsibility of Parenting.....	36
Responsibility and accountability	37
Children as a test from Allah	38
Rewards and joys of parenting.....	42
Goals of parenting.....	43

CHAPTER 3: The Basics of Parenting.....	47
The importance of the marital relationship.....	47
Gender roles.....	51
The honourable role of motherhood.....	53
The role of fatherhood.....	55
Nurturing one’s own eemân.....	56
Basic rights of the child (Duties of parents).....	57
Basic rights of parents (Duties of the child).....	58
The importance of breastfeeding, bonding and early attachment.....	60
Praying for a righteous child.....	62
CHAPTER 4: Knowledge and Education in Islam.....	64
The importance of knowledge.....	64
The meaning of knowledge.....	66
Knowledge and parents.....	67
Knowledge and parenting.....	68
More than knowledge alone.....	70
The Arabic language.....	70
The Prophet Muhammad’s methods of education and teaching	73
CHAPTER 5: <i>Fitrah</i> : The Innate Nature of Children.....	77
What is <i>fitrah</i> ?.....	77
The influence of parents.....	79
The influence of Satan.....	80
The responsibility of parents in relation to <i>fitrah</i>	81

<u>PART TWO: CONNECTING CHILDREN TO THE</u>	
PILLARS OF EEMÂN	83
CHAPTER 6: Allah, the Exalted, the Almighty	84
Belief in Allah.....	84
Connecting children to Allah	87
CHAPTER 7: The Angels	98
Belief in the angels	98
Connecting children to the angels.....	100
CHAPTER 8: The Prophets and Messengers.....	112
Belief in the prophets and messengers	112
Connecting children to the prophets and messengers.....	116
CHAPTER 9: The Books and Revelation	122
Belief in the books and revelation	122
Connecting children to revelation.....	125
CHAPTER 10: The Day of Resurrection and the Hereafter	132
Belief in the day of Resurrection and the hereafter.....	132
Connecting children to the Day of Resurrection and the hereafter.....	137
Responsibility and accountability	143
The nature of this world.....	144
CHAPTER 11: Divine Will and Predestination	148
Belief in Divine will and predestination.....	148
Connecting children to Divine will and predestination.....	151

<u>PART THREE: DEVELOPING AN ISLAMIC PERSONALITY</u>	159
CHAPTER 12: Additional Keys to Developing an Islamic Personality in Children	160
Definitions	160
Begin from an early age	160
Teach children to understand all things from the perspective of Islam	164
Teach importance of obedience to parents	164
Encourage a focus on worthy values and related projects	168
Be good role models	171
Demonstrate and encourage pride in being Muslim	172
Instil love of jihad	172
Place Islam before ethnicity and nationality	176
CHAPTER 13: Enhancing the Islamic Personality and Building Self-Esteem	178
Definitions of self-concept and self-esteem	178
Importance of self-esteem	178
Building self-esteem	179
<u>PART FOUR: ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS</u>	187
CHAPTER 14: The Home Environment	188
Create an environment of eemân within the home	188
Establish prayer within the home	189
Make teaching and learning ongoing activities	191

Maintain an Islamic library.....	192
Know the supplications and Islamic rulings that pertain to houses.....	192
Invite righteous and knowledgeable people to the home.....	195
Remove negative influences from the home.....	196
Ensure that physical aspects are conducive to fulfilling religious obligations	198
Some notes regarding television.....	199
CHAPTER 15: The Peer Environment.....	203
The role of peers.....	203
Choosing righteous friends.....	204
Friendship based upon love of Allah	208
CHAPTER 16: The Community Environment.....	210
Encourage a sense of belonging to the Muslim nation	211
Practical suggestions for developing a sense of community....	212
Conclusion.....	213
References	215
Appendix: Parenting Resources	217
Glossary.....	219