**Developing Your Child’s Growth Rhythm**

Recently, I posted my top 10 tips for home-schooling success, whether it’s just helping with homework or being full-time home school teacher to your kids. Now I am elaborating on each item on the list. Parenting tip #6 is this:

# Building character and developing a

growth rhythm sets the tone.

Yeah, it’s up to you, the parent, to supervise, if not to teach, your child as they plow through the school year. Yeah, that means staying on top of reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic lessons. Yeah, the fourth “R” of schooling is “relationship.” But now we are looking at the goal of your efforts. Do you just want little Ali to be able to check all the boxes at test time? Do you only want to have an exceptional relationship with your child? Or is your ultimate goal of parenting to mold another person who makes a difference in his world, by being a person of upstanding character and purpose?

In my book, **Teachable Moments: Building Blocks of Christian Parenting**, I share with readers that we want to raise our kids to be independent, responsible, community-minded adults. Helping them in building character and developing a growth rhythm sets the tone to achieve that goal.

“Okay, Ali, time to get started on your homework,” Keisha encouraged her fourth grader.

“Aww, mama,” he began to protest, “Just let me finish this You Tube video.”

“I tell you what. Why don’t you pause it right there, so that, when you have finished your homework, you can pick it right back up where you left off?”

“But,” Ali started.

“Now, sweetheart,” Keisha set the tone, “What part of *now* don’t you understand?” She picked up the remote and paused what he was watching.

So, there is a place for understanding, compassionate, but tough love as you raise your child. Several pieces of wisdom come to mind. Always make room for what’s most important to you. First work, then play. Measure twice, cut once. Choose smarter over faster. Share the load. More hands, less work. Reward effort. I’m sure there are more that you can add to this list.

Each of these tidbits help build your child’s character. Not only what he says and does, but also who he is now and will become as an adult. They also help him develop a growth rhythm. That is, prioritizing his time and effort on things that will help him reach his goals and grow into the best of who is.

You are pivotal in your child’s journey. Research shows that 80% of your child’s personality comes from his interactions with you. Only 15% comes from his peer group and just 5% is unique to him. No pressure, but helping him build character and develop a positive, meaningful growth rhythm sets the tone for how he lives his life.