

**Parents are responsible for the behavior of the children.
Comment.**

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Parents have an important role to play in the nurturing and building up of strong families. Children is defined to be that of the offspring of the parents, regardless of age. Most children will spend their formative years in the care of parents and therefore parents have a direct influence on their behavior through education by example and emulation. A home built on understanding and love will ostensibly help a child to learn acceptance and compassion. However, once a threshold of maturity is reached, the behavior of the children will eventually become their own responsibility. This means that children are at once directly responsible for their actions as well as preponderant on their parents' upbringing and guidance during the years they are under their care.

Parents are responsible for the upbringing, and to some extent, early behavioral patterns of a child. Renowned violin teacher and pedagogue Shinichi Suzuki once said, "Children learn to smile from their parents." A child's formative years are shaped by mimicking the behavior of the immediate guardian, whether it be the maid or mother, and as much as has been taught, a child may imitate or claim as their own. The Bible has a saying that states, "Train up a child in the way that he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Formal teaching and guidance on correct behavior especially during the formative years is instructive. If the child is taught to shun evil at a young age, they will naturally be more careful when they encounter it at an older age.

However, even though a child may be taught to follow paths set by their parents, ultimately, the responsibility for their actions must rest on their own shoulders also. As much as a parent may want a child to behave and act in a certain way, once a child begins to develop a mind and set of abilities of their own, they will naturally have the power to choose and discern which is best suited for their own needs. A child, at a particular age, must be given the rights to decide and bear the consequences for their own decisions. But a healthy understanding of themselves is needed for a child to decide what is good or not for them selves and to make the best of their decisions. This may mean adopting behaviors that are similar to what they have seen in their parents, or even to develop their own patterns, based either on external examples or internal beliefs and values. Therefore, a parent, although playing an important role in shaping and forming a child's development in terms of thinking and action, is not fully responsible for all actions of a child, especially after the age where they are regarded as a 'fully matured adult'- and this may even vary from individual to individual.

In conclusion, parents play a critical role in developing their child's thinking, values and beliefs. Ultimately however, a child's behavior is their own, especially once they begin to realize that they are quite different from their parents and the things they want in life might be dissimilar to what their parents may want for them. Parents need to provide all that is needed to ensure their children will have the "right" information to make informed choices, and give them the room they need to learn and grow, whether it is making mistakes and achieving great successes.