



Al-Maktab

PARENTS NEWSLETTER



Rabi'ul Awwal 1448 / September 2026

Assalaamu alaykum Wa rahmatullahi Wa barakaatuhu

Respected parents!

Allah Ta'ala has favoured us with the bounty of children. Male and female offspring are a great gift from Allah Ta'ala as Allah Ta'ala says,

يَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ إِنَاثًا وَيَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ الذُّكُورَ أَوْ يُزَوِّجُهُمْ ذُكْرَانًا وَإِنَاثًا وَيَجْعَلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ عَقِيمًا

He (Allah Ta'ala) grants daughters to whomsoever He wishes and sons to whomsoever He wishes or He grants both sons and daughters to whomsoever He wishes. And He makes barren whomsoever He wishes.

From this verse we understand that children are a gift from Allah Ta'ala. When Allah Ta'ala has favoured us with this special bounty, we need to take care of it. The gift of children comes with great responsibility.

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Each one of you is a shepherd and each of you will be questioned about his flock!"

Parents will be questioned about their children: **"Did you as a parent give them the correct Islamic values and upbringing?"**

Our responsibility can be encapsulated in the aayah of the Qur-aan Shareef highlighting the advice of Hadhrat Ibraheem (alayhis salaam) and Hadhrat Yaqoob (alayhis salaam) to their children:

يَبْنِيَنَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

O My beloved sons! Allah Ta'ala has chosen for you Deen, so you must not die except in a state that you are Muslims.

This amaanat (trust) of children has to be returned to Allah Ta'ala with Deen, the seed of which was planted in their very nature right from birth.

Rasulullah ﷺ said that every child is born with the natural inclination to Islam and its teachings but it is the child's parents that shape him into what he becomes. Jewish parents will make their children Jews, Christian parents will make their children Christians and so forth. Allah Ta'ala blessed us with the true religion of Islam, so we must ensure that our children are given pure, undiluted Islam and that they are brought up as true Muslims. Such an effort must be made on their Imaan that when they leave this world, they leave and return back to Allah Ta'ala with Islam.

The backbone to achieving this is the Maktab system. Remove the Maktab from the equation and Islam can be lost in a matter of one or two generations, as we have seen in other countries. May Allah Ta'ala reward our pious predecessors for putting Deen first and establishing such a Maktab system that has preserved our Deen in this non-Muslim country. This has allowed Islam to flourish to the point that even Arabs admire our Maktab system and other countries have adopted it! This is only Allah Ta'ala's grace. Just ponder for a moment. Where did we learn how to make wudhu and ghusl? Where did we learn to recite the Qur-aan Shareef and masnoon duas? Where did we learn the basic laws of Islam and the concern for halaal and haraam? Surely, it was in the Maktab for most of us. This means that the Maktab taught us Deen! It preserved our Islamic identity! To the extent we respect, revere and take the Maktab seriously, to that extent Islam will flourish in our progeny. But, Allah Ta'ala forbid, if we start disregarding the Maktab, and consider it to be less important than secular studies, sports and other activities, then the deficiency in the Islam of our progeny will be seen in the years to come.

What a tragedy it will be if other countries admire our Maktab system, adopt it and respect it while we become complacent, neglect it and disregard it!

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "The best gift a father can give his child is good manners."

It is the duty of the parents to teach Deen to their children or to make arrangements for them to be taught Deen.

Therefore an appeal is being made to all parents to have a "no compromise" attitude when it comes to the Maktab. **Protect** and **preserve** the **original** Maktab system.

Do not fall into the trap of looking for convenience and sending our children for short Maktab sessions twice and thrice a week or even having online classes. The excuse of extra-curricular activities will never justify the massive loss! The original system of heart-to-heart dedicated learning time is a tried and tested method that has worked all along. How sad it is that some parents have taken their children out of Maktab because it interferes with their school or sports!

At all costs, our children must be sent to the Maktab for the full duration from Monday to Friday. In this day and age there are many distractions and lures out there to take our children away from the Maktab. This is synonymous to taking them away from Deen and destroying their Islamic future! No activity or lesson can be more valuable than the time they spend at the Maktab.

Late coming and absenteeism is the biggest impediment for Maktab teachers. The result is that some children cannot recite the Qur-aan Shareef correctly when they have completed primary school. Many Duas and Surahs are missed. Many important lessons equipping them to face and combat modern-day attacks on their Imaan are missed. As a result they are vulnerable and left with weak Imaan. When they come across some new theory in school or some article or piece of media, their Imaan is shaken and sometimes shattered because their Maktab foundation was weak. The evidence is in the stark reality of many such cases that have come to the fore. We appeal to you not to sacrifice your child's Imaan and Islam for some sport, tuition or lesson. Really, the time lost in the Maktab can never be regained.

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "When a man dies, all his actions come to a halt except for three: (1) Perpetual charity (2) Beneficial knowledge (3) **A pious child who makes dua for him.**"

The greatest asset for us is to invest in the Deen of our children. The starting point for this is the Maktab. Tomorrow when we will be in our graves, this investment will show its true worth and reap us huge benefits.

On a lighter note, a parent kept sending notes to his child's Maktab teacher saying:

- Please excuse my child from attending Maktab on Monday as he has soccer training.
- Please excuse my child from attending Maktab on Tuesday as he has swimming lessons.
- Please excuse my child from attending Maktab on Wednesday as he has Cricket practice.

The ustaaz wrote back:

"No problem! But just remember that tomorrow when you are in need like a 'drowning person' and you expect your son to be at your graveside reciting Qur-aan Shareef, the only thing he may be good for is 'dribbling around' and 'hitting sixes' because he had no time to come and learn in Madrasah"

May Allah Ta'ala save us and protect us all. May He enable us to take heed to the above advice and uphold the legacy of Maktab education as it ought to be upheld. Aameen.

In an effort to assist and guide parents on how to encourage their children towards Deen and co-operate with the Maktab, Insha Allah, articles and audio clips like these will be sent out from time to time. We request all parents to take heed to these advices and make a concerted effort to implement them. Insha-Allah this joint effort will prove fruitful.

JazakAllah

Ta'limi Board KZN