

# Seeing and Being

Why parents play the most important role in  
*every* society

# A Riddle

1. Who has the greatest influence on a child's academic achievement?
2. What is the most powerful unit of human culture?
3. What is the most sensitive window of child development?

# Parents Matter

Parent involvement is the *single best predictor* of a child's academic achievement.

Parents have singular influence on:

1. Character
2. Competence
3. Creativity
4. Collaboration
5. Health

# Family Matters

“Families set our horizons of the possible and the impossible. . . Family is culture at its smallest - and its most powerful.”

-Andy Crouch, Culture Making

# Early Childhood Matters

## 1. Brain development

1. Grows from 25% to 90% of adult volume, birth to 5
2. Physiology is “activity dependent”

## 2. Skill development

1. “Skills beget skills.”

## 3. Attitudes to learning are established

## 4. Creativity is cultivated

## 5. Responsibility is nurtured

# Seeing and Being - A Lens

During the earliest years of life, the lens through which a child sees the world develops . . .

1. In real human relationships
2. As ordered values
3. As embodied values
4. Through meaningful language

How we see the world, and how we make our way in it are inseparably intertwined.

# A Lens Answers Questions

1. What is normal?
2. What is normative?
3. What is real?
4. What is true?
5. What is good?
6. What is beautiful?
7. What is valuable?

# Apprenticeship in being human

Children learn by:

1. Absorbing
2. Observing
3. Asking

Parents teach by:

1. Modeling
2. Speaking
3. Answering

# Why explain it like this?

## 1. Explanatory power

→ Authentic

→ Comprehensive

→ Satisfying

## 2. Descriptive

→ Your neighbors can see it.

## 3. It begs the question!

→ What is real, true, good and beautiful?

→ How ought values to be ordered?

# Is this a gospel explanation?

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

(John 3:3)

1. You can't make your child see.
2. No teacher is satisfied until the student sees for himself that a thing is so.

# What can I do?

1. Pray.
2. Meditate on the gospel.
3. Speak the gospel.
4. Live the gospel.
5. Read!
  - The Bible
  - Great literature
  - Missionary biographies

“More than ever before, families have to repeatedly make conscious decisions about what is valuable and then choose the best over the mediocre. If appreciation of beauty and the gift of articulation are meaningful to you, then I suggest that exposure to great writing is a necessity.”

Gladys Hunt, Honey for a Child's Heart



“Good literature teaches more than we know. Example always speaks louder than precept, and books can do more to inspire honor and tenacity of purpose than all the chiding and exhortations in the world.”

“My thesis [is] that parents who read widely together with their children are going to be those who most influence their children, who have the largest worldview, who have an uncommon delight in what is good and true and beautiful – and an uncommon commitment to it.”



# Summary

1. How we see reality defines who we are - how we understand and make our way in the world.
2. The lenses through which we see are formed in early childhood as we become part of the story of a family and community.
3. Thus parents (or those who act in their stead) play a critical role in shaping a child's lens by the stories they tell and embody.

# Want to learn more?

1. Honey for a Child's Heart

[tumblr.com/honey](https://tumblr.com/honey)

2. Essential Questions

[tumblr.com/essentialquestions](https://tumblr.com/essentialquestions)

3. Tumblron podcast

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