

Making Choices

Making choices for your children can be one of the most overwhelming, scary and debilitating parts of parenting. As parents, it is your responsibility to care for, nurture, and foster success in their lives. How are you supposed to know what is best? What is right? With Catholic school registration dates looming and these big decisions to be made, it is a good time to discuss how to make good choices for your children and how to teach your children to make good choices for themselves, which is essential. There are many ways to manage making such choices, these include: speaking with God, listening to your child's needs and consulting with the educational professionals in your life.



a certain Catholic school is the best fit for your child. Perhaps it's your alma mater, or where all your friends' children go. But have you stopped to listen to your child? Have you given your child the opportunity to explore all schools he or she is interested in? Allowing your child to have input can make all the difference in his or her education.

While considering these major questions and decisions the first place to start is with God. The best choice will always be to speak with God while considering anything that may have major life effects. He knows what is best. Period. Not only is it important for you as parents to speak with God it is one of the first major skills you should be teaching and modeling for your children as well. Modeling a strong relationship with God is the best way to teach this skill to your children.

So how do you speak to God? It sounds simple but for many adults and children it does not always come easy. Prayer is a great place to begin. Setting time aside for thoughtful prayer should be number one priority. This is the perfect opportunity to model prayer for your children. Prayer can be explained to a child as simply as it is a conversation with God. Explain that having conversations with Him will help guide them, you and your entire family to the correct decision.

The next step in the decision-making process is listening to your children and considering all aspects of what is best for them. It is easy to get caught up with various non relevant reasons on why you believe

Lastly, seeking advice and input from the educational professionals in your child's life is important. Teachers spend countless hours with your children and know them very well from an educational and social aspect. Ask them what type of educational environment they see them thriving in. Large? Small? Co-Ed? All girls? All boys? Gaining their perspective can help steer your decision.

Why is this all so important? Because as an educator I have seen firsthand a child's view of school and education change completely because of the environment he or she is in. I have witnessed children become the student and person they were always meant to be because they are finally in an environment that fosters their learning style and educational needs. Environment matters. The right school fit matters. Not all schools are the same and that is okay. That is why we are so blessed to live in a world where we have choices for our children.

At the end of the day you are the parent. You get to make the decision. My hope for you is that you have spent time speaking with God, your child, your family and educational professionals in your life. Including all of these in your decision-making process will guide you to the right decision for your child and family. God Bless.

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