**Children**

**Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me,**

**My father, thou art the guide of my youth?**

**(*Jeremiah 3:4)***

**Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children,**

**you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

***(St. Matthew 18:3)***

**Then they brought little children to Jesus,**

**that he might lay his hand on them and pray;**

**and his disciples rebuked them.**

**Let the children come to me, and do not stop them;**

**for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.**

**(*St. Matthew 19:13,14)***

**Become like newborn babes,**

**and long for the word as for pure and spiritual milk,**

**that you may grow to salvation by it.**

***(1 Peter 2:2)***

**Children Are: Amazing, acknowledge them. Believable, trust them. Childlike, allow them. Divine, honor them. Energetic, nourish them. Fallible, embrace them. Gifts, treasure them. Here now, be with them. Innocent, delight with them. Joyful, appreciate them. Kindhearted, learn from them. Lovable, cherish them. Magical, fly with them. Noble, esteem them. Open-minded, respect them. Precious, value them. Questioners, encourage them. Resourceful, support them. Spontaneous, enjoy them. Talented, believe in them. Unique, affirm them. Vulnerable, protect them. Whole, recognize them. Xtraspecial, celebrate them. Yearning, notice them. Zany, laugh with them. (*Meiji Stewart)***

**The young are permanently in a state resembling intoxication; for youth is sweet and they are growing. (*Aristotle)***

**The Beauty of the Child:**

**C is for their Christ Lights, which shine from them so bright.**

**H is for their little hugs, that are so warm and tight.**

**I is for individuality, which they have no trouble showing.**

**L is for their Love inside, which is always freely flowing.**

**D is for their divine presence, that they so openly share. *(C. Jeffrey Cornell)***

**The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation. *(Pearl S. Buck)***

**Each child comes with a message that God is not yet discouraged of man. *(Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Nobel Prize-winning poet)***

**Don't laugh at a youth for his affectations; he is only trying on one face after another to find a face of his own. *(Logan Pearsal Smith)***

**The face of a child can say it all. Especially the mouth part of the face. *(Jack Handey)***

**You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. *(Kahlil Gibran, in The Prophet)***

**It is easy to find lots of reasons why God is something we cannot do without. But this much is certain: the grown-ups aren't bothering about Him, so we children must do it. *(Rainer Maria Rilke)***

**When I was a child, God also became a child with me to be my playmate. *(Tagore)***

**If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses. *(Goethe)***

**The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence. (*Denis Waitley)***

**The highest frequency that adult humans can hear is about 20,000 cycles per second. Children can hear frequencies up to 40,000 cycles. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can't Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, on page 42)***

**Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. (*Garrison Keillor)***

**The trick for grownups is to make the effort to recapture what we knew automatically as children. *(Carol Lawrence)***

**Children Learn What They Live:**

**If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.**

**If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.**

**If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.**

**If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.**

**If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.**

**If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.**

**If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.**

**If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.**

**If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.**

**If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.**

**If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world. (*Dorothy Law Nolte)***

**I believe that each newborn child arrives on earth with a message to deliver to mankind. Clenched in his little fist is some particle of yet unrevealed truth, some missing clue, which may solve the enigma of man's destiny. He has a limited amount of time to fulfill his mission and he will never get a second chance -- nor will we. He may be our last hope. He must be treated as top-sacred. *(Sam Levenson, in Everything But Money)***

**Children like to listen to scary stories before bedtime. Adults watch the late news. *(Doug Larson)***

**Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. *(John W. Whitehead, in The Stealing of America)***

**Children may tear up a house, but they never break up a home. *(Lufkin Industries ROUNDUP)***

**Childhood is measured out by sounds and smells and sights, before the dark hour of reason grows. *(John Betjeman, in Summoned by Bells)***

**A small child was permitted to sit on the stairs for a short time while her parents entertained at a rather noisy cocktail party. The next day, when asked what she thought of the party, the child replied, "Well, it kinda sounded like being on the school bus." *(United Mine Workers Journal)***

**Children are not things to be molded, but are people to be unfolded. *(Quoted by Jess Lair)***

**A child is a person who can't understand why someone would give away a perfectly good kitten. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up. *(Pablo Picasso)***

**Society seems to want to constrict childhood more and more. Perhaps it has to do with not wanting to be caregivers anymore because we're too busy or fearful. Society wants kids to grow up more quickly. It offers them rewards for being more and more adultlike in their behavior rather than childlike. Children need someone to reassure them that play -- their own, unique, imaginative play -- is something to be valued. Children need to be valued for who they are, where they are, and not for something in the future. *(Fred Rogers, in TV Guide)***

**Children don't need toys to play. My one-year-old is never happier than when he is unraveling an audio tape, wearing underwear on his head or making music by clinking a crystal ornament against the glass coffee table. And his favorite part of birthdays and Christmas is the chance to taste so many kinds of colored wrapping paper while everyone else is distracted with whatever is inside. Even my older children don't need toys -- they are quite content reprogramming my computer, taking apart the lens of my camera or face-painting with the makeup in my bathroom. It is parents who need toys. We need toys to keep our children away from our things. *(Susan Lewis, in Philadelphia)***

**A child on a farm sees a plane fly overhead and dreams of a faraway place. A traveler on the plane sees the farmhouse . . . and dreams of home. *(Carl Burns, in The Drug Shop)***

**World Book editors wanted to know what's of specific interest to children, so recorded what was most frequently looked up in school libraries: Dog, snake, cat, fish, bird, president of the United States, horse, flag, dinosaur, baseball, whale, animal, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, football, airplane, Earth, elephant, Florida and United States. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A child wants nothing but to upset the world. *(Bruce Springsteen)***

**We see a child swinging on a gate and we say, "Go find something to do." We fail to realize that he is already doing something -- he's swinging on a gate. Inevitably, when we grow up, instead of swing on gates when we feel like it, we go out and "find something to do." *(James Lincoln Collier, in Reader's Digest)***

**I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home. *(Robert Orben)***

**Bitter are the tears of a child: Sweeten them. Deep are the thoughts of a child: Quiet them. Soft is the heart of a child: Do not harden it. *(Lady Pamela Windham Glenconner)***

**There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. *(Frank A. Clark)***

**Walk With a Child and realize how much you miss with adult eyes.**

**Walk that much nearer to the ground and see the little starlike track of sparrow footprints in the sand, grass peeking through a sidewalk crack, lost pennies waiting to be found. Walk, or sometimes skip, instead. Blow off the top of a dandelion head. Step squarely in a puddle, unafraid. Bend low to see the hill the ants have made. Walk with a child and realize the renaissance of surprise. *(Ruth Manley Powers, in Praying Hands)***

**When a child is born, he or she comes into this world without precognitions of what this world "should" be. Children just open their eyes in wonder and fascination and experience life as it presents itself to them. What a simple and wonderful formula this is. *(Susan Smith Jones)***

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