**6 A’s of Parenting:** by **Josh McDowell**

**Acceptance**

**When you give unconditional acceptance, you give a child a sense of security.**

This basically comes down to one principle that must be conveyed to our children: I don’t love you because of what you do or achieve, I love you because you’re my child. Our love and affection should not be based on grades, behavior, or achievements.

**Appreciation**

**When we express appreciation, it gives a child a sense of significance.**

Appreciation is one of the most powerful motivations for right behavior. So, the more we “catch” our children doing things right, and we express our appreciation, the more motivated they will be to behave better.

**Availability**

**When we are available to our children, it gives them a sense of importance.**

We can say all we want about how important our children are to us. But if we’re not giving them our time, our words will ring hollow. Our children should come before our TV-watching, our hobbies, and our desire to make money.

Children spell love T-I-M-E.

**Affection**

**When we show our children affection, it gives them a sense of lovability.**

All children want to feel like they are lovable. Josh McDowell says not only that, but every child is going to prove they are lovable. If they don’t get love from you they will get it somewhere else.

**Accountability**

**When we hold children accountable, it gives them a sense of responsibility and self-control.**

Children need the disciplines of responsibility and self-control to function successfully in life. As parents, we must create a context for rules and boundaries. Once those guidelines are set, we must be consistent in enforcing them.