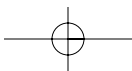
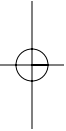
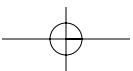
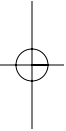
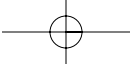


OVERVIEW
OUR CHILDREN





CHAPTER 1

How Do You Want Your Kids to Turn Out?

*Do not teach your children, for they will not understand.
Rather, show them how you live and they will follow you. . . .*

—JACQUELINE WATTS

ALL OF US HAVE GONE THROUGH THE SAME EXPERIENCES IN OUR lives, relatively speaking. We've been born, come home from the hospital, pooped in our pants, gotten cleaned up by a parent who cared about us, learned to walk and talk, learned to be nice, learned to beg, learned to _____ (go ahead and fill in the blank for a behavior of your choice). The fact is, virtually everything we've ever done has been a result of a learned behavior. The way we react to others, the way we decide things, the way we spend and save money, the way we choose to earn a living: All of these thoughts and actions are a result, to some degree, of behavior that we have learned.

With this in mind, it is clear that our parents had a great deal to do with how we turned out. Some of us had great parents who spent a lot of time with us and showed us how to be effective in our lives and with others. Some of us—the larger percentage, unfortunately—had parents who may not have spent enough

time and energy on our behalf. Consequently, we may lack some of the life and parenting skills necessary to live and parent effectively. Some of us had two parents, some of us had one parent, and some of us had no parents. Whatever the case may be, whoever was there for us when we grew up was the one responsible for our early development. How we decide to do things today is a reflection on the values and habits promoted by those parental influences.

Now, let's spin things forward a few years and look at ourselves and our own children. Let's look at how much time we spend teaching our kids how to do cool things. Let's look at the example we set and at the level of communication present in our family relationships. Let's look at the financial example we are setting through our own spending and saving habits. Whatever we do and say is what our children will be learning to apply to their own lives. What they learn today is what they'll implement tomorrow.

When our kids go out and buy this book in a few years and reflect back on their family experiences, what kinds of memories do you think they'll have? What kinds of family and financial habits will they have adopted? What family and financial principles will they be implementing in their own lives and families at the time? I hope that after implementing some of the ideas in this book and spending some quality time with your kids, they'll look back happily on a positive, fulfilling childhood experience and see what role that experience played in the development of their financially and emotionally rewarding adult life experience.

The purpose of this book is to help you work with your family to establish some basic communication skills and to create an environment in your home that is peaceful, challenging, happy, positive, and rewarding. You and your children will also gain substantial financial intelligence through the contents and processes of this work.

Chapter Challenge

Purchase a one-inch three-ring binder that has a clear plastic cover to insert a cover page. From now on, this will become your family journal. Also pick up a three-hole punch, lined paper, and copy paper. If you have access to the Internet, visit www.kidsparentsandmoney.com and bookmark it. From this point forward, we'll refer to www.kidsparentsandmoney.com as "KPM.com." Once on the site, print out a Cover Sheet and Form CC-1, complete the Cover Sheet, and insert it into the front of your new binder. Complete Form CC-1, punch holes in the form, and place it at the beginning of your journal. If you don't have the Internet, on the first page, write down the date and document three things you have done recently to positively affect the lives of your children. Also, write down your reasons for purchasing this book and any thoughts you may have on your family relationships as they now stand.

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