

# 4 ADULTS WHO CAN HELP SHAPE YOUR KIDS

It really does take a village to raise kids to become productive adults. There is no replacement for your role as the primary faith trainer in your home, however, studies have shown surrounding your kids with like-minded, caring adults is deeply important.

As parents, we have a responsibility to provide oversight for our kids regarding who they hang out with and when they hang out. We schedule preschool play dates and park meet ups so our kids can hang with their friends, but how often do we consider which adults we want our kids to be around? As you think of being intentional about other adults in your kids' lives, here are four types of adults who can influence your kids in a positive way.

#### The Dreamer

Dreamers can open your kid's eyes to things they may not see. I have a friend who is currently an assistant coach in the NBA. As I watched him from afar, I knew he had dreamed of coaching in the NBA and watching his dream come true has inspired me. When we provide our kids opportunities to be around adult dreamers, it teahes them to dream and challengesthem to think about their future in new and exciting ways. The balance here is to let them dream, but not be consumed by something that they may never achieve. Placing them around adults who have worked hard and seen their dreams come true is a powerful tool.

List two adults that you know ar	e dreamers:		
On a scale 1-10, are you a drea	amer?		
1		10	

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#### The Fixer

Having friends that can fix things has two benefits: one, they can help you fix what's broken, and two, they can help your kids learn new skills. Find a fixer that is patient enough to not only help you, but also to teach your kids at the same time. To this day, I remember how to trim hedges because one of my dad's friends once asked me to help him with some landscaping. He patiently showed me how to shape hedges like a pro. Surround your kids with people who are skilled and willing to share their skills.

List two adults who you k	(now are fixers:		

### The Encourager

I often find myself intentionally encouraging my friends' kids. As an encourager, I genuinely want to affirm great things I see in others, especially in my kids and their friends. It is fun to brag on how awesome kids are in front of their parents. One day while my kids were playing at the park, a few of the boys were not getting along and I watched one of them restore peace between them. I went over to the peacemaking boy and encouraged him for his great work in resolving the conflict. Then, I shared with his dad about his ability to help everyone get along. Both he and his dad were encouraged. I certainly want to surround my kids with encouraging adults that see the things in them that I may miss.

List two adults that you know are encouragers:		
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## The Storyteller

Typically, the storyteller is an adult that is a little older and more experienced in life. Storytelling is one of the most powerful ways we share life together and pass on a legacy. I have made it a point to ask that all of my kids' grandparents and "church" grandparents share their stories of past experiences. It is a joy to hear my kids retell the stories they've heard from long ago and how things used to be. This gives them a wider perspective of the world and an appreciation for what they have. An easy win would be to bring your kids to a senior adult event and have them sit and eat lunch with a table of wise adults full of stories.

List two adults that you know are storytellers:	