



Attention

Turning the whole force of the mind to the subject in hand.

“My son, **give attention** to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart.”

Proverbs 4:20-21 (NKJV)

קשב (kaw-shab)

a primitive root; to prick up the ears,
i.e. hearken:—attend, (cause to) hear(-ken),
give heed, incline, mark (well), regard.

Questions to ask yourself about ATTENTION

- Am I working on the habit of attention as a top priority?
- Is my child working toward making appropriate mental associations without letting those associative thoughts control him?
- Do I have my child's attention during homeschool lessons?
- Am I encouraging my child to look at an object longer than is his natural inclination?
- Do I sometimes play "What Did You See?" with my child?
- Am I learning to put aside any lesson that my child is dawdling over, provide a change of pace, then return and attempt to make it bright and pleasant?
- Do I try to vary the day's lessons and encourage my child's desire for knowledge?
- Are our lessons short with a definite time-table scheduled?
- Am I progressing in using natural consequences to motivate my child?
- Do I emphasize conduct and character over cleverness?
- Am I mistakenly excusing my child's inattentiveness as lack of ability instead of treating it as a bad habit?
- Am I helping my older child learn how to fix his thoughts on the matter at hand?
- Am I careful to avoid things that might encourage inattentiveness in my child?
- Have I been expecting too much work or too difficult of work from my child?
- Do I require my child to narrate after a single reading?
- Do I require any homework to be done within a set time?
- Am I trying to use the time-table idea and natural consequences with everyday activities?
- Is my child making progress toward not being bored constantly?
- Am I trying to use good books and minimal oral teaching in lessons?
- Am I modeling a lifelong habit of study and learning?