

STEWARDSHIP FOR KIDS: An Introduction

By Lynne Sesinye-Samwinga

Children can be caretakers of their Bodies; the Environment; Gifts/Talents/Abilities; Time; Money; and their Possessions. They are not too young to do so. Looking after these is an important part of life. It is a responsibility given to man at creation. It is the duty of all human beings. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), meaning that God owns everything. Our role is to be managers of His creation which is both an honour and a great responsibility.



Steward of my Body

It is important to care for our bodies. For good well-being, we should follow the eight principles of health, summarised by the acronym S.T.E.W.A.R.D.S., which stand for Sunlight, Trust, Exercise, Water, Air, Rest, Diet, and Self-control. Scripture tells us that God values our bodies. The bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you are bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.'

*The eight principles of health are represented by the acronym S.T.E.W.A.R.D.S.





Steward of my Environment

Being a steward of the Environment means contributing to making the world a safe place to live. Turning off the water tap when brushing teeth is helpful for the environment because clean water is a limited resource. Putting plastic, paper and empty cans in recycling bins is a useful habit. We can also look after the environment by walking to and from school because driving contributes to polluting the environment. The earth belongs to God and humans are in charge of its care. The bible says that the Lord God put man in the garden of Eden to look after it (Genesis 2:15). We are also instructed not to pollute the land we live in (Numbers 35:33).

STEWARDS OF OUR TALENTS, GIFTS AND ABILITIES

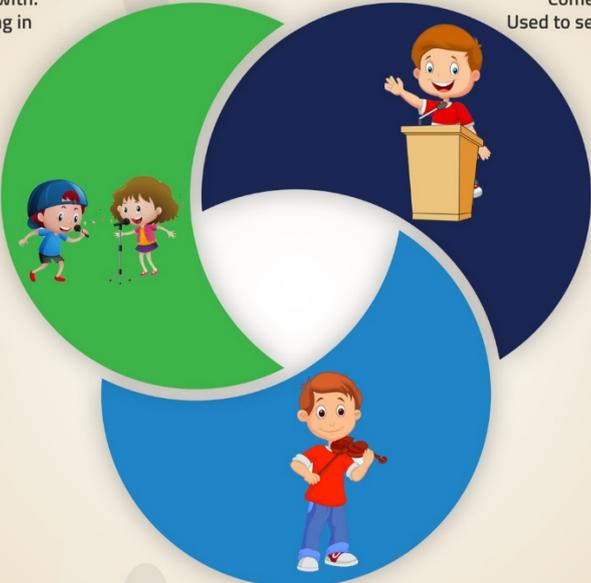
Each and every person is born with different natural talents, gifts or special abilities. That means everyone can be good at something.

TALENT

Given at birth/born with.
e.g. being able to sing in tune

GIFTS

Come directly from God.
Used to serve God's purpose.
e.g. teaching



ABILITIES

Learnt by personal observation and trial and error, or taught. e.g. playing a musical instrument

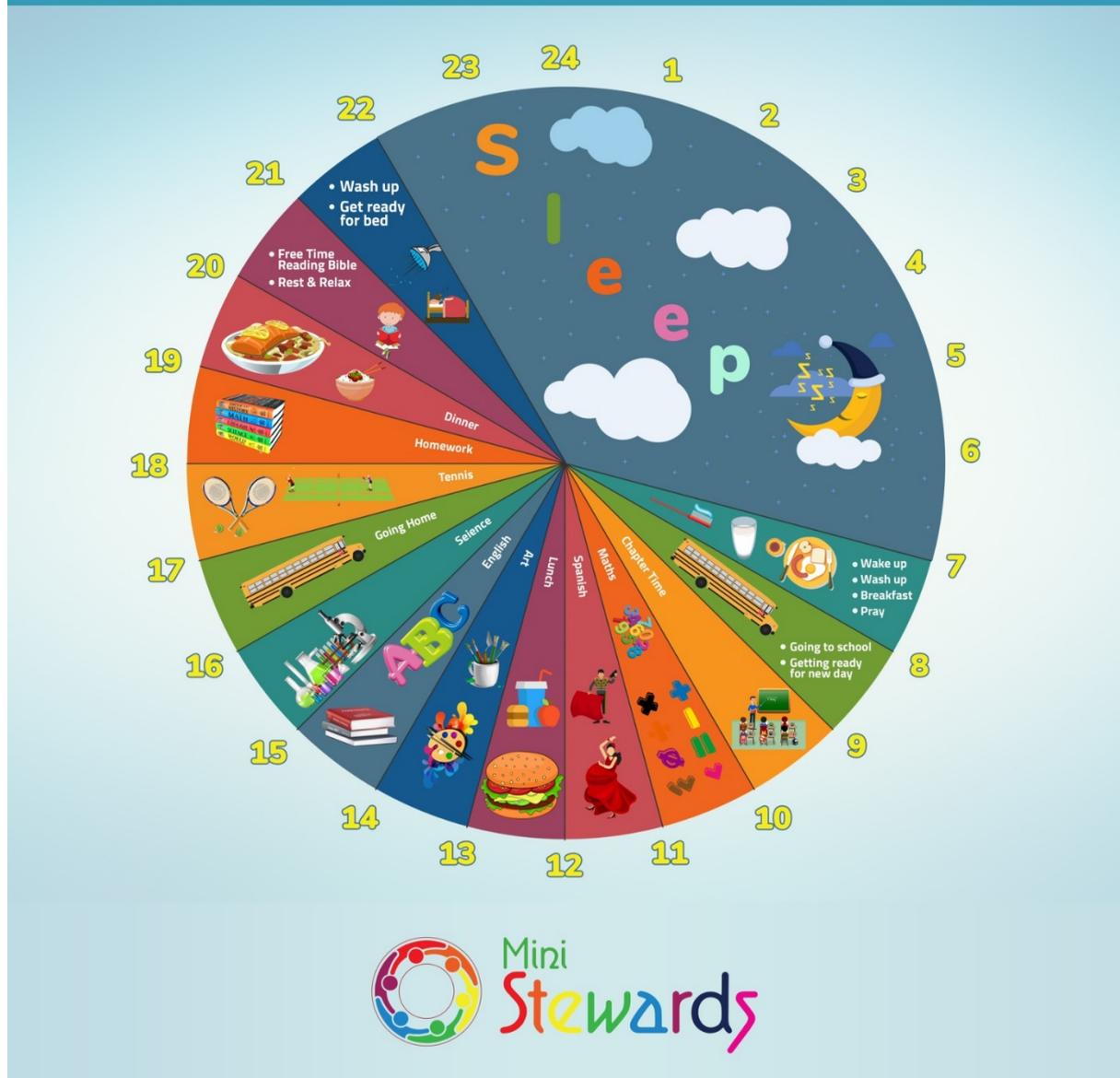


Steward of my Gifts, Talents and Abilities

Every person is born with different natural talents or special abilities. This means everyone can be good at something, whether it be in sport, painting, writing, public speaking, playing a musical instrument, etc. However, such talents and abilities need regular practice and action to be perfected. We experience a full life when we use our talents/gifts/abilities for His glory. We are to use whatever gift we have, to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms according to 1 Peter 4:10.

STEWARDS OF OUR TIME

Time is a precious gift. Everyone has the same amount of time each day.
How it is used is up to each individual.



Steward of my Time

Time is a precious gift which everyone has the same amount of each day. How it is used is up to each. Children need guidance from parents, guardians and teachers on how to use their time wisely. Twenty-four hours a day is enough to accomplish what needs to be done in a day. Jesus himself used time wisely. He said to His disciples once - 'As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work (John 9:4).



Steward of my Money

Throughout life, varying amounts of money passes through our hands and bank account. Some money is used for food, accommodation, heating and lighting bills, and much more. Apart from spending money on ourselves, giving to help others is another important use. From a young age, children need to learn how much things cost and the wise use of money. They need to know about the importance of hard work and earning. Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat'. Children also need to learn about tithing from a young age. We return a tenth of our earnings to the Lord as a way of teaching that God is our priority.

STEWARDS OF OUR POSSESSIONS

Children need to look after what they have; such as toys, clothes, gadgets and their beds. Possessions that are well looked after last longer and will not need to be replaced unnecessarily.



Steward of my Possessions

Possessions are mostly acquired with money. Children need to look after what they have; such as toys, clothes, gadgets, and their beds — possessions that are well looked after last longer and will not need to be replaced unnecessarily. They can be passed on in good condition for others to use or given to charities to sell and help people in need. The early church members provided their possessions for the needs of its poor, needy members (Acts 2:45).

Encouraging children to use these six principles as a guide as they grow, should not be a burden, but a part of life. Our Creator wants children to learn of these principles from a young age. He uses these to mould the lives of His children into what He wants them to be. As parents, we must practice and model these for our children to follow. When exposed to teachings like Daniel, they will grow up to be responsible, principled citizens of the world.