

# **Building Healthy Brains and Hearts**

Every moment with your child helps "wire" their brain.
Through consistent warmth,
PLAY, and faith-filled connection, you're building lifelong pathways for peace, empathy, and resilience.

#### The SCIENCE Behind It

Childhood lays the foundation for forming neural pathways in the brain. Understanding this helps explain WHY positive/negative experiences early in life have such lasting impacts on emotions, behaviors, and learning.

Our actions affect these pathways. For example, repeated positive experiences- being comforted, prayed with, and encouraged-strengthen these connections. This process, called neuroplasticity, means loving interactions literally build pathways for trust, self-control, and joy. Stressful or neglectful experiences can weaken those pathways, but consistent, nurturing and faith-based routines repair and strengthen them.

Remember: Childrens' brains are built, not born.



Here are ways to help your child!

### Model Calm and Connection

Stay present and GENTLE during meltdowns- your calm helps their brains calm, too.

Outcome - Builds pathways for emotional regulation and safety.

### Use Music, Laughter, and Play

Sing worship songs, dance, and laugh together daily.

Outcome - Releases chemicals that build a strong emotional connection.

## Practice Gratitude and Prayer

At dinner or bedtime, each person says one "thank you to God" moment from the day.

Outcome - Boosts oxytocin which strengthens neural pathways related to joy and empathy.

### Model Grace and Forgiveness

When mistakes happen: "That wasn't okay, but I still love you. Let's try again."

Outcome - Builds strong forgiveness, trust, and emotional regulation pathways.

A mothers calling is to teach, guide, impart wisdom, comfort, and nurture. Every warm, faith-filled interaction helps wire their brains for love, trust, and joy that lasts a lifetime!