



Parenting Advice for Muslim Mothers

Connecting with Allah ﷻ Through *Dua* During Ramadan (Part 4)

The more importance you give to making *dua*, the more they will learn its importance.

What to Do:

1. Make a *Salat* and *Dua* Corner

- Dedicate a corner in your home where you lay out prayer rugs for every member of your family as a constant invitation to reach out to Allah ﷻ. Children enjoy a visual boundary even if it is something as simple as a carpet, large enough to accommodate your prayer rugs. An element of excitement can be added simply by placing a string of fairy lights all around the area and children can be told that every gathering where we talk about Allah ﷻ is surrounded by angels and wrapped in Mercy. Make it comfortable and beautiful so that children are attracted to it, and once there, are happy to stay. (Pictures of some spaces are included below for ideas!)
- Make it a place where you worship together as a family and sit in *dua* but also encourage to use that space for other activities, like reading a book or making a puzzle. Put up signs of "Remember Allah!" or simple *duas* like "*Rabbi zidni 'ilma*" and *adhkaar* like "*SubhanAllah*" and "*Alhamdulillah*" to remind them to engage in the remembrance of Allah and *dua* for the time they are there, regardless of what they are doing. Have a story-time for young children in that space, where you narrate to them stories from the life of the Prophet (saws) and his blessed companions, to inspire them throughout Ramdan.

2. Make a Schedule

Make a daily schedule for your family and hang it in your special space. Include in it prayer times followed by *dua* times, Qur'an recitation and *dhikr* times. If your children are taking any online classes or have other scheduled activities, put them in the schedule. You can also include chores and play time etc. to give structure to their day and ensure that they will spend their day productively; it will also help you know when the kids will be busy so you can plan out your day accordingly. .

3. Make Time for *Dua*

Make sure that throughout Ramadan you set aside time at the following occasions to make *dua*. It will require some advance planning and preparation to ensure that these golden opportunities are not missed. If you are in the kitchen at these precious times, the children will be less inspired to avail them for *dua*.

- **After eating *suhoor*:** This is the blessed time of *Tahajjud* that lasts until the *Fajr adhan*. Teach your child that this is the best time for making *dua* and connecting with Allah (swt). Make sure that everyone is up early enough so that they have time left after completing *suhoor* to pray a few *rak'at* of *Tahajjud* prayer, and then make *dua* before the *Fajr adhan*.
- **After every *salat*:** Teach your children that this is a time for the acceptance of *duas*. Teach them some Prophetic *duas* and *adhkar* to be read after *salat*, and encourage them to make *dua* in their own language as well.
- **Before breaking the fast:** Teach your child that this is prime-time for the acceptance of *duas*. In fact it is like a blank check, through which you can ask Allah ﷻ for whatever your heart desires. Make sure that you are not in the kitchen at that time, and that everyone is seated around the *iftar* at least 10 - 15 minutes before the *Maghrib adhan*, engrossed in their own *duas*.

4. Collective *Dua*

Once in a while, lead a collective *dua* for your family and make your husband and other elders of the family lead it too so that children can learn how to call out to their Lord. Also let your children lead *dua* a few times and prompt them where they get stuck.

5. Teach your Children New Prophetic *Duas*

This Ramadan don't only teach them the wordings of new *duas*, but also their meanings and their significance, so that the children read the *dua* from the heart and not just the tongue. Insha'Allah, our next few posts will guide you in how to do this.

