

Exhorting children to pray

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: The Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ said: **Command your children to pray when they are seven years old, and beat them for (neglecting) it when they are ten years old; and separate them in bed at the time of sleep.** Do the "seven years" start upon the end of the sixth year or upon the end of the seventh year and the beginning of the eighth year?

Answer: When a child reaches the age of seven, the guardian should command them to perform Salaah in order to get them used to it. There is a Hadeeth reported by Imaam Ahmad, Aboo Daawood, and Al-Hakim where the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **Command your children to perform Salaah when they are seven years old, beat them if they neglect it when they are ten years, and separate them in bed at the time of sleep.** It is clear that the intended meaning is when they finish their seventh year.

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him