

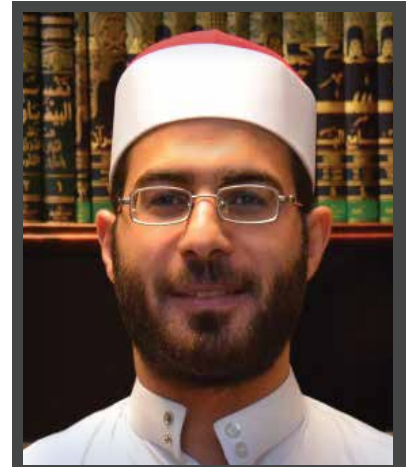


The Mosque Foundation COMMUNITY

Pulse

May 2017 – Shaban 1438 Issue 114

5 Habits of a GOOD LISTENER



Sh. Ahmed Arafat

One of the main reasons behind ruined relations is “poor listening.” Therefore, if you would like to develop better relations with your spouse, child, friend or colleague, you need to work on being a better listener. In this article, I will illustrate five habits which are an integral part to communication skills.

1) LISTEN WITHOUT INTERRUPTING

It is obvious that when we talk, we like others to listen to us. When people listen to us, we feel valued and respected. Ironically, when others talk, we forget the value of listening and tend to jump in the conversation interrupting the speaker. To avoid this bad habit, let us identify the reasons why we interrupt others and train ourselves to avoid these pitfalls.

A) Feeling Insulted

To be a good listener, you need to train yourself to receive criticism with an open mind. Be calm and seek clarity from your conversational partner to ensure better understanding of what the speaker is saying and of what you may need to change. Remember that listening does not mean that you agree with the speaker, it just means that (1) you have good character, (2) you want to ensure accurate understanding, and (3) you want to tell your partner that they had an opportunity to speak.. To attain this goal, try to be calm when receiving criticism until it becomes second nature.

Here is a great example from the life of the prophet (S) to illustrate how good listening requires calmness, express self-confidence and leads to magnificent influence. Once ‘Utbah ibn Rabi’ah agreed with the pagan leaders to dissuade the prophet from his Da’wah. Therefore, ‘Utbah approached Prophet Muhammad (S) with the following message, “O Muhammad, you know your social and lineage status in our land; yet, you brought us a grand matter—through which you disunited us, rebuked us and mocked our idols. So listen to the following offers so that you may accept one of them.” “Continue Abu al-Walid,” said the Prophet (S). ‘Utbah continued, “If you are looking for money, we shall make you the wealthiest of us; if you desire

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5 HABITS OF A GOOD LISTENER

sovereignty, you shall have the final word in all of our matters; if you are looking for kingship, we shall make you our king; and if you need medical treatment, we shall pay for your healing!" The Prophet (S)'s immediate response to this series of serious insults and misjudgment was, "Are you finished, Abu al-Walid?" When Abu al-Walid answered in the positive, the Prophet (S) recited the beginning of Chapter 41 of the Quran and prostrated when he reached the 38th ayah. Impressed by the beauty and power of the Quranic message, Abu al-Walid prostrated with the Prophet (S). When Abu al-Walid turned back to his people, they said, "This man looks different." They were even more surprised to hear Abu al-Walid's comment, "I listened to a discourse that is neither magic nor poetry, and you should let Muhammad continue his mission..."

B) Feeling Knowledgeable

You may interrupt a speaker because you feel that you can anticipate what he or she is about to say. This mistake usually occurs when someone is reporting to you a story or a piece of news that you have already heard. Imam Ata' said, "Sometimes a person may narrate a Hadith to me, and I would listen attentively as if I never heard it before even though I had heard it before he was born!" In his al-Riyad al-Nadira, Ibn Sa'di suggests that not only does good character require attentive listening to what one might have known before, but good character should also lead us to show the speaker that one learned from him or her! Ibn Sa'di argues that this kind of attentive listening will, "motivate the speaker, make him happy and protect you from self-conceit."

C) Rushing to Judgment

Have you ever made up your mind before the speaker's message was fully delivered? If yes, this can be called distorted listening. Talking about the etiquettes of debates in his al-Faqih wa al-Mutafaqqih, Imam al-Khatib al-Baghdadi say, "If a debater understood something from the initial presentation of his opponent, the debater should not be quick to pass a judgment since the opponent may mention something at the end of his presentation that explains his initial remarks in a way different from what you first understood."

D) Countering the Speaker's Anger

When the person conversing with you gets angry, do not interrupt. Rather, wait and give him or her time until their anger is absorbed. Shouting back and raising your voice with frequent interruptions turns your talk this into a verbal fight and not a fruitful conversation. You may choose to stay still and talk later when the person calms down and shows willingness to listen; otherwise, the whole conversation will be futile. Remember that controlling your anger is a sign of strong character. Imam Muslim reported that the prophet said: "A strong person is not the one who defeats people in wrestling; but rather, it is the one who controls himself when he gets angry." Again, you need to keep training yourself to be calm till it becomes a second nature to you. This is what Imam al-Ghazali calls Tarwid al-Nafs "Disciplining the Self" or Mujahadat al-Nafs "Self-struggle".

2) LISTEN WITH AN OPEN MIND

This great attitude requires honesty, self-discipline and unselfishness. Negative feedback and new ideas may be two major causes for the absence of open-minded listening. In his Revival, Imam al-Ghazali offers three interesting requirements for a debater. First, for seeking truth, a person should act as if he is looking for a lost item, and it does not matter if the lost item is

found through him or his conversational partner. Second, a person should see his partner as a helper, not an opponent. Third, as one might thank people for giving him or her the right direction when they are lost, a debater should thank his conversational partner when the latter identifies a mistake and/or reveals the truth. Our tradition tells us about a lady who corrected Umar (R) while he was delivering a khutbah. Feeling no embarrassment, Umar (R) remarked: “The lady is right, and Umar is wrong.”

3) LISTEN WITH UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

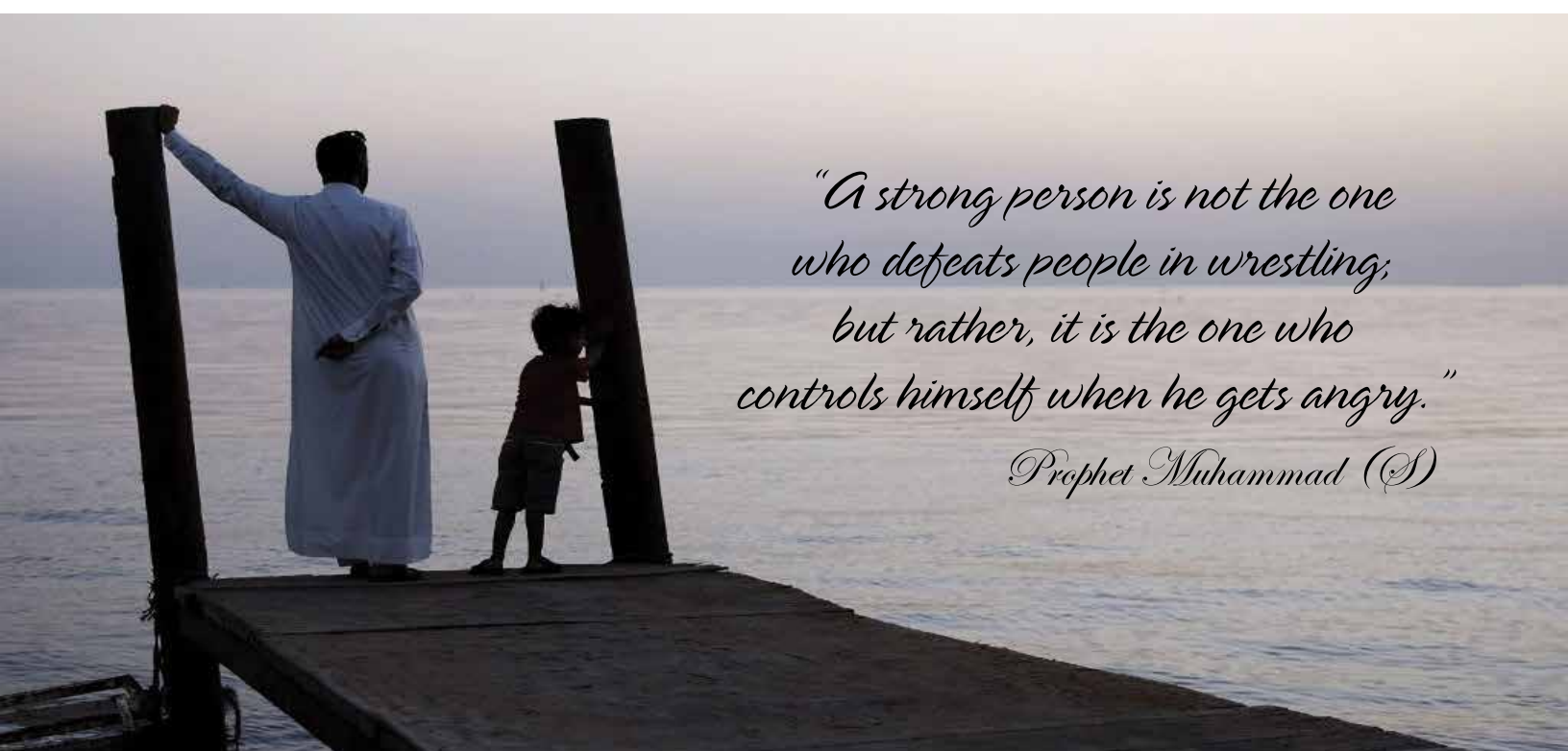
There are many ways that can illustrate attentive listening, such as, asking questions, repeating or giving a summary of what the speaker said, and facing the speaker. Hadith literature records a long but interesting narrative by Sayyidah ‘Aisha (R), known as Hadith Um Zar’ during which she discusses eleven types of husbands and their attitudes towards their wives. The ideal husband Abu Zar’ comes last in the list. Prophet Muhammad (S) listened attentively to this long narrative with no interruptions and, at the end of Sayyidah ‘Aisha’s talk, gave a clear comment which illustrated his attentive listening, “I am to you as Abu Zar’ is to his wife!”

4) LISTEN WITH DEEP EMPATHY

Good listeners listen to the words as well as the feelings of their conversational partner—especially when emotional distress is involved. For example a discussion involving two spouses in a family scenario. A husband often mistakenly focuses on solutions and ignores his wife’s feelings. Sometimes, a wife just wants her husband to acknowledge the emotional pain or the many burdens she is going through. Imam al-Tirmidhi reported that Safiyyah (R) (who was a Jew and converted to Islam and got married to the Prophet (S)) was emotionally disturbed by a remark from Hafsa (R) who reminded her of her Jewish origin. The Prophet (S) turned to Safiyyah and praised her religious heritage and said, “You are the daughter of a prophet [referring to Musa (A)], and your uncle [referring to Harun (A)] is a prophet, and you are the wife of a prophet [referring to himself]. Then the Prophet (S) turned to Hafsa and said, “O Hafsa, have Taqwa of Allah!”

5) LISTEN WITH ‘EXTRA’ MOMENTS OF SILENCE

When it is your turn to talk or to comment, you may need to allow time for silence to refuel your mind and to ensure that your conscious mind, not your ego, is speaking. Imams Ahmad and Abu Dawud reported, on the authority of Uqbah ibn ‘Amr, that a man came and sat in front of the Prophet (S) and asked, “We know how to greet you, but how can we send our prayers for you during our Salah? Upon this, the Prophet (S) remained silent for a while until we wished the man did not ask him. Then, the Prophet (S) said, “During Salah, you can say: O Allah, may Your praise be with Muhammad the unlettered Prophet and his family as You bestowed your praise on Ibrahim and his family. O Allah, may Your blessings be with Muhammad the unlettered Prophet and his family as You bestowed your blessings on Ibrahim and his family. Indeed, You are Praiseworthy, Exalted. To conclude, good listening in the way described in this article will lead to mutual understanding which in turn helps us resolve many of our conflicts by finding the middle way or siding with your partner or seeking professional counseling.” Wallahu ‘A’alam!



“A strong person is not the one who defeats people in wrestling; but rather, it is the one who controls himself when he gets angry.”

Prophet Muhammad (S)

A Cornerstone OF DEVELOPMENT

By Jameel Karim

Before attending Universal school in the late 90s and growing up in the Bridgeview community, I was a young man exposed to an environment that provided gangs, drugs, and other self-destructive elements as youth outlets. In my area, there were no schools that incorporated Islamic values, much less community centers where I could be Muslim and not worry about it being an awkward thing. There wasn't an ever-growing Muslim community to which youth could attach themselves and flourish. When I began attending school in the community, a new world of development and opportunities was presented to me. I was given Mentors in community figures like Sheikh Jamal Said, Sheikh Kifah Mustafa, Safaa Zarzour, and Nazir Chahin. The value of Islam was felt and seen, and there were institutions of various kinds for young people to groom their character and enjoy their youth. One of those places that our leaders invested time in building would come to be known as the Mosque Foundation Community Center (MFCC).

Such a place is a cornerstone for communities and their youth. Being a youth who used to attend the programs at the community center and now an adult working for it and providing the programs for the youth of the day, my perspective of the importance of such institutions has come full circle. We need to maintain such institutions, and we need to endorse the programs that make our youth realize their potential, improve their character, and let them be youth. Rather it is a movie night or a dars about Allah and his rights, the center and all it has to offer is vital to our youth. As the year comes to its midpoint, I pray that the members of our community can continue to see the benefit of the MFCC. Come! Show up! Not just learn in the religious driven programs, classes, and presentations, but to also laugh with us in our basketball games for brothers and volleyball games for sisters, to workout with us and improve our health together, to be spirited with us as we groom brotherhood and sisterhood, to play with us as we simply celebrate youth, and to pray with us as we remember Allah and that we are Muslims.

The community's involvement and its presence is what keeps this cornerstone strong and holding up its youth who attend it and will be the future mentors and community leaders. It is the community that provides the youth of the day with better choices than what is provided in the streets and in other institutions not concerned with an Islamic environment and Islamic values. For our youth, the MFCC is their Cornerstone of development, and we all must contribute to it.

Please Note

- ◆ Younger participants are allowed to participate in older participants' level, older participants will NOT be allowed to participate in younger participants' level.
- ◆ Winners must attain a grade of 90% or above.
- ◆ Register on or before **6/18/2017 (9pm)** at the MFCC or at MF office or email : reg.mfcc@gmail.com
- ◆ Judging will be on Wednesday **6/21/2017, 2 pm** at MFCC.
- ◆ Winners and prizes; **7/1/2017, 5pm** at MFCC.
- ◆ Grading Scale: 60% for Memorization, 30% Tajweed, and 10% for performance. (kids under 13 scale: 80% memorization, 10% Tajweed and 10% performance)

MFCC

مسابقة رمضان لحفظ وتجويد القرآن Ramadan Qur'an Competition

Ramadan 2017/1438

الجوائز Prizes			السورة	العمر
الثالثة 3 rd place	الثانية 2 nd place	الأولى 1 st place	Surah Name (Surah #)	Age (by 6/21/2017)
\$20	\$40	\$60	Alfajer (89)	Level 1 Under 6 years
\$30	\$60	\$100	Almulk (67) & Noon (68)	Level 2 6-8 years
\$30	\$60	\$100	Mohammad (47)	Level 3 9-12 years
\$50	\$100	\$150	Alsajda (32)	Level 4 13-17 year
\$50	\$100	\$150	Alaraaf (7)	Level 5 18 + years




Quranic Stories

من قصص القرآن

- ❑ Quran Stories & lessons
- ❑ Quran recitation time
- ❑ Weekly iftars: girls (Thursdays) and boys (Saturdays)
- ❑ Free social and sports time/segments

❖ Boys (10+ yrs): Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays 3:30-7:50pm

❖ Girls (10+ yrs): Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 3:30-7:30pm

❖ Duration: May 26 through June 24

❖ Fees: \$30/\$20 (for MFCC members) (financial assistance available if needed)

❖ Iftar fees (\$10) & it's optional

Registration is required, register at MFCC



Saturday School

مدرسة السبت

now accepting applicants
for the new year 2017-2018

**Limited seats
available**

**Boys and Girls
5-12 years**

Tuition: \$550/student
(\$900 if paid at registration)

School schedule and duration:
8/26/17 through 5/19/18
Saturdays 10am-2:30p.m.

Register now at MFCC.....7260 W. 93rd
Monday - Saturday 4-9 pm
708-598-6307

MFCC

Summer/ Ramadan

CAMP

6 weeks camp
June 12 - July 27, 2017

Ages: 4-11 boys and girls
 (Birth certificate is required)

Schedule:
 June 12 - June 23, 2017
 Monday through Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 June 24 - July 2, 2017 Eid Break
 July 3 - July 27, 2017
 Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fees: \$270/1st child, \$260/2nd child, \$250/3rd and beyond
 all trips, fees and supplies are included.



Register at: MFCC.
 7260 west 93rd st. Bridgeview, IL
 everyday M-St. 4-9pm, or email us at:
mfcccamp@gmail.com

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ZakatChicago.com

Local Collection. Local Distribution.

Q: Who is responsible for helping the needy Muslims of Chicago?

A: The Muslims of Chicago.

For over 10 years, Zakat Chicago has helped needy Muslims in our community. Zakat Chicago provides funding to local Muslim food pantries, weekend schools in low income areas and directly to the needy through local mosques.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said to Mu'adh (R): "... inform them that Allah has enjoined on them the zakat. And it is to be taken from the rich amongst them and given to the poor amongst them." (Bukhari: 2.24.537)

Please visit ZakatChicago.com to use an online zakat calculator, get answers to FAQs, and to see a list of supported projects. You can pay your zakat online or by mail.

A committee of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

MANERAS PARA PREPARARTE ANTES DE *Ramadan*

Shaban es el mes antes de Ramamadan, un mes de entrenamiento físico, mental y espiritual. Este mes nos ayudara a dar la bienvenida al mes del ayuno prescrito por Allah (SWAT) en la forma correcta. Como podemos alcanzar el ayuno deceado por el siervo hacia Su Creador? Los compañeros del Profeta(saws)usaban prepararse para Ramadan 6 meses adelantado. Así es, que si realmente queremos hacer el mejor ayuno en Ramadan tenemos que prepararnos ya! Ayunar no solo implica abstenerse de comer, tambien se requiere abstenerse de tener un lenguaje indecente y controlar los decesos lujuriosos. El ayuno nos ayuda a ser

mas cautelosos de nuestras acciones, ser pacientes y atener una buena moralidad cual induce al aumento de Taqwa(conciencia de Allah). Estas son algunas de las maneras de como podemos mejorar en diferentes aspectos de nuestra vida; para asi beneficiarnos de Ramadan, el mes cual las acciones son multiplicadas. **El Ayuno voluntario** es la mejor manera para asi ganar el control de tus acciones, tu estomago y decesos.

Usamah ibnZayd(raa)dijo:Dije,"Oh Mensajero de Allah,Yo no te veo ayunar en otro mes mas que en este mes de Shaban. El (saws)dijo, Es el mes cual la gente no presta atencion,entre Rajab y Ramadan, es el mes cual las acciones ascienden hacia El Senor de los Mundos. Yo quiero que mis acciones sean elevadas mientras estoy ayunando."(Al-Nasaai) Los Lunes y Jueves y los Dias Blancos (13,14,15)del mes islamico son otras buenas ocasiones para ayunar de acuerdo a las hadices.

Recitar y Refleccionar el Coran; Aisha (ra) relata que el Profeta(saws) dijo:" Realmente aquel que recite el Coran bellamente, suave y preciso, estara en la compania de angeles nobles y obedientes. Y aquel quien lo recite con dificultad, tartamudez con los versos, el tendra doble la recompensa."(Muslim) **Seguir la Sunnah y hacer Rezos voluntarios;** Aprender mas sobre el Profeta(saws)y seguirlo por medio de practicar, copiar sus

acciones."Di:[Oh Mohammad] Si verdaderamente amais a Allah!Seguidme! Y Allah os amara y os perdonara los pecados. Allah es Absolvedor, Misericordioso." (Coran3:31) **Arrepentimiento y hacer Suplicas;** El Profeta(saws)dijo: "Todos los hijos de Adan constantemente cometen errores, pero los mejores de aquellos que constantemente erran son los que constantemente se arrepienten." (Tirmidhi) **Mejorar Tu Caracter;** El Profeta(saws) usaba decir:" El mejor de ustedes es aquel quien tiene el mejor comportamiento y caracter."(Al-Bukhari) **Dar Caridad;** En el Sagrado Coran Allah (SWAT) dice,"Quien contribuire con sus bienes por la causa de Allah, para que El se lo multiplique y recompense generosamente? (57:11) **Comer saludable y con Moderacion;** La comida que comemos antes de ayunar y despues de haber ayunado necesita proveer energia para asi lograr las tareas y aumentar la adoracion hacia El Creador. Finalmente para tomar ventaja repleta en el mes sagrado de Ramadan, debemos tratar de desarrollar ymejorar nuestras acciones para poder alcanzar el proximo nivel espiritual inshaAllah.

Su hermada en Islam, Celia Snowber

May 2017 – Shaban 1438

Al-Siddiq School

Testimonials: Al-Siddiq Proud Alumnus Says: “As a result of my years at Al-Siddiq School, I have knowledge...chapters of the Quran memorized...have been exposed to Islamic history...can read Arabic”

Salamu aalaaykum wa raahmut Allahi wa barakatu:

The most important thing that I received from Al-Siddiq School was a connection to mosques. Not just the Mosque Foundation, but to places all over the world dedicated to the worship of the One God. The true purpose of Al-Siddiq School was to teach us our religion. It is a religion that enjoins good, forbids evil, and preaches peace. Without access to the school, we would be forced to learn our religion on our own, or not at all.

As a result of my years at Al-Siddiq School, I have knowledge that is often taken for granted: I have chapters of the Quran memorized, while some people do not know the opening chapter (Surat Al-Fatihah); I have been exposed to Islamic history; I can read Arabic and have a basic understanding of the language.

Jawad Shalabi.
Thank you.

Al-Siddiq School Maximizes It's Impact By Training Some Of The Best Teachers Dedicated To Educating Children In The Muslim Community At Large.

One Of Our Proud Teachers Writes: “ Working at Al- Siddiq School has provided me with a great opportunity to teach Quran, Arabic and Islamic Studies. My passion has always been teaching and I could not have been happier being part of such a well dedicated school. At Al-Siddiq School, I am surrounded by amazing students who are eager to learn about their religion and language, families that are very dedicated to their children's Islamic education, and an amazing staff that is very supportive. My greatest reward is when I see my students reading Arabic and understanding our religion. Al-Siddiq School is one of the best Islamic school in the Chicagoland area”

Al-Siddiq School Teacher, Lama Tamlieh



Al-Siddiq School Soccer Team Starts the Season with A Great Win

Al-Siddiq School soccer team started a new soccer season on April 9th and had their first outdoor game on April 15th. The team played a great game and had won with a large margin. Congratulations to our soccer team.

Al-Siddiq School...

State of the Art Affordable Education in an Islamic Environment...

AL-SIDDIQ SCHOOL STARTS REGISTRATION FOR
THE SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018.

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE - **SEATS ARE LIMITED**

WHO: Boys 5-10 years and girls 5-15 years.

WHEN: Registration Starts on April 4/10/201 and ends on 9/16/2017

WHERE: Accountant Office, Mosque Foundation at 7360 W. 93rd Street, 2nd Floor, Bridgeview, IL 60455

QUESTIONS: (708) 430-5666 ext. 7.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$200 paid at registration

BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FEE: \$25 per child

TUITION:

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	TUITION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 3*	TUITION JUNE 4TH TO AUGUST 18TH	TUITION AFTER AUGUST 18TH
1	\$450	\$500	\$550
2	\$425	\$475	\$525
3	\$400	\$450	\$500
4	\$375	\$425	\$475
5 OR MORE	\$0	\$0	\$0

For more information, please review registration-forms at:

*additional conditions apply

<http://www.mosquefoundation.org/weekend-school/registration>

Please note: The Accountant Office working hours: Sundays from 9:30a.m. to 11:00a.m. (during the school year), Monday to Thursday from 11:30a.m. to 1:00p.m., Fridays from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m., Saturdays the Office is Closed.

Join Our Team

Al-siddiq School is recruiting a qualified assistant principal

General Summary:

This position serves under the direction of the Principal and Education Committee and provides assistance with the School instructional programs, building administration, personnel/staffing, pupil services and School/community relations. The Assistant Principal has shared responsibilities with the Principal and serves in the absence of the Principal. The Assistant Principal may assume responsibilities from within the Principal's job description.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

1. Bachelor degree in Education or similar degree, an advanced degree is preferred
2. At least 5 years of teaching and administrative experience
3. Study and knowledge of Islamic principles and teachings and the application of these principles in life and in decision making
4. Good leadership skills with high levels of organization and planning skills
5. Ability to use Microsoft Office (word, excel, etc) and communicate effectively via email.
6. Ability to develop effective working relationships with students, staff and the school community
7. Ability to communicate clearly and concisely in Arabic and English; both verbally and in writing
8. Knowledge of curriculum development, teachings strategies, and evaluation tools
9. Recommendations from at least 3 community leaders

To Apply: Please send a cover letter and a curriculum vitae to school@mosquefoundation.org or drop these materials at the front desk of the Mosque Foundation.