**When Children Learn** *Written by David L. Weatherford*

When children learn that happiness is not found in what a person has but in who that person is.

When children learn that giving and forgiving are more rewarding than taking and avenging.

When children learn that suffering is not eased by self-pity, but overcome by inner resolve and spiritual strength.

When children learn that they can't control the world around them, that they are the masters of their own souls.

When children learn that relationships will prosper if they value friendship over ego, compromise over pride, and listening over advising.

When children learn not to hate a person whose difference they fear, but to fear that kind of hate.

When children learn that there is pleasure in the power of lifting others up, not in the pseudo-power of pushing them down.

When children learn that praise from others is flattering but meaningless if it is not matched by self-respect.

When children learn that the value of a life is best measured not by the years spent accumulating possessions, but by the moments spent giving of one's self-sharing wisdom, inspiring hope, wiping tears, and touching hearts.

When children learn that a person's beauty is seen not with eyes but with the heart and that even though time and hardships may ravage one's outer shell, they can enhance one's character and perspective.

When children learn to withhold judgment of people, knowing everyone is blessed with good and bad qualities, and the emergence of either often depends on the help given or hurt inflicted by others.

When children learn that every person has been given the gift of a unique self, and the purpose of life is to share the very best of that gift with the world.

When children learn these ideals and how to practice them in the art of good living, they will no longer be children -- they will be blessings to those who know them, and worthy models for the world.