

VOICES: What's most important to you in raising your child (children) to thrive in the 21st century?

Members from Florida Joint Territory respond:

We want to raise our children in a positive environment. If they have a positive environment, it will be much easier for them to build self-confidence. The basics of this is creating a positive discipline. People sometimes think you have to be mean and cruel to get children to follow rules. But that's not true. We try to focus on the things our son does well and really praise him. Everybody has to follow rules — not only the child. That's something we let him understand.

— STEVE & MIRIAM MARINELLO, Pompano Beach, Fla.

Most important is a good education and letting them grow up in the SGI-USA organization. My oldest three children came to activities when they were young, but didn't learn gongyo. Now with my younger three children, I realize it's important for them to practice and learn gongyo at an early age. If they don't know gongyo, they feel out of place when they come to activities.

— GABRIEL TAMAREZ, Pembroke Pines, Fla.

What's most important is making sure they have the best education and foundation. I look to them as Renaissance people. I want them to be able to do anything. The reason is so they can be contributors to society, leaders in their own right and make a better world in the 21st century. I want them to be people who give and share something positive in their lives.

— MILA WOODS, West Palm Beach, Fla.

One of the most important things is to give her a foundation. What is honesty? What is true? I want her to learn how to decipher that on her own. I want her to think for herself.

— TRACY COOPER,
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

I think it's important to expose my kids to many different points of view, cultures and ways of living. For example, we had a chance to attend the Chinese New Year's recently in Miami. My kids fought against going. They get a lot of ideas from television, but in this case they found out things were completely different. They loved the food, the music and looking at the people. I want to do more of these things as a family.

— VICTOR GOLDEN, Miami