



LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

THE POWER OF THE FIRST TEACHER

The phrase "*knowledge is power*" is often attributed to Francis Bacon, from his 1597 work, *Meditationes Sacrae*.

Bacon's proverb rings true today as knowledge is seen as a form of capital that can be converted into tangible power—economic, political, or cultural.

In a child's life, the first five years are critical in the development of knowledge. By age five, a child's brain is nearly 90% developed, and parents, as the child's first teacher, play the most influential role in shaping that growth. These early years are a time of rapid brain development, emotional bonding, and foundational learning. No one shapes that more profoundly than a parent.

Parents are not just teachers of knowledge—they are a child's first spiritual mentor, shaping how their child perceives God, prayer, community, and moral values. From birth to age five, a child absorbs faith through the relational experiences, prayers, songs, and emotional modeling of the parents.

Thus, when it comes time for a child to attend school, children are best served when teachers and parents share common values and morals. In an ideal world each parent would be able to find just a school for their child.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Educational Freedom for parents.

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