The Children's Saff

The place where children stand during Salaah in the Masjid, at times, becomes a contentious issue. Below are some guidelines which if followed should prove beneficial in maintaining harmony in the Masjid.

The position of the children's Saff is behind the men's Saff. (A male who is Baaligh or is 14 years and 7 months is counted as an adult and may stand in the Saff of men.) The children's Saff may be formed a few rows behind the men's Saff if those rows are expected to be filled by latecomers to the Jamaat.

If children cause a disturbance in the Masjid, then it is correct and preferred to disperse them among the men's Saff or have them stand with their father/guardian. In this situation, it is better if they stand at the ends of the Saff.

If children have commenced Salaah, then it is incorrect to move them back. It is not the child's fault if an adult comes late for Salaah. Adults should stand next to children and behind them as further Saffs form. Standing next to or behind a child does not invalidate the Salaah.

Ensuring the proper arrangement of the Saffs is from the duties of the Imaam. Hence, the Imaam must play an integral role in the proper formation of the Saffs.



JAMIATUL ULAMA

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