



Parenting

The Skillful Art of Transitioning
Responsibility



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Transformation Kinetics

(e.g. in metallurgical processes, popcorn popping, etc.)

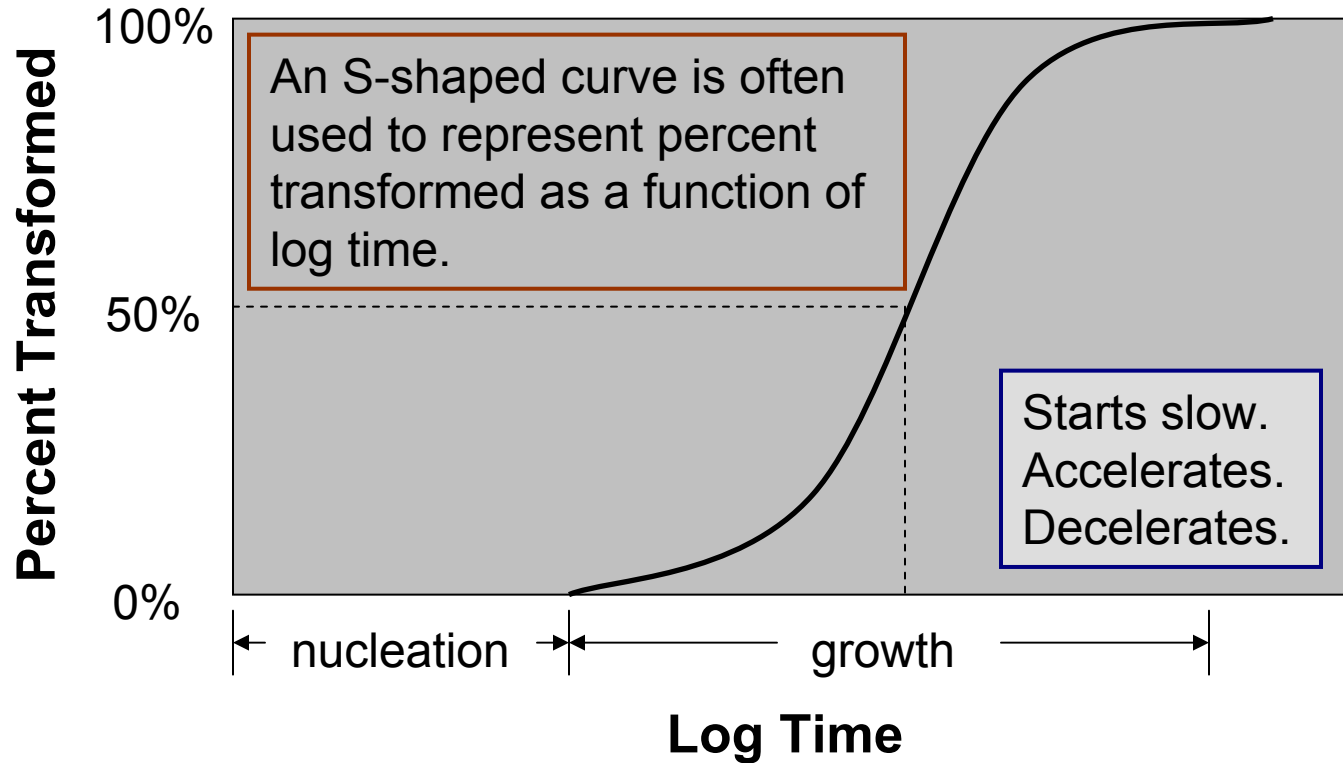
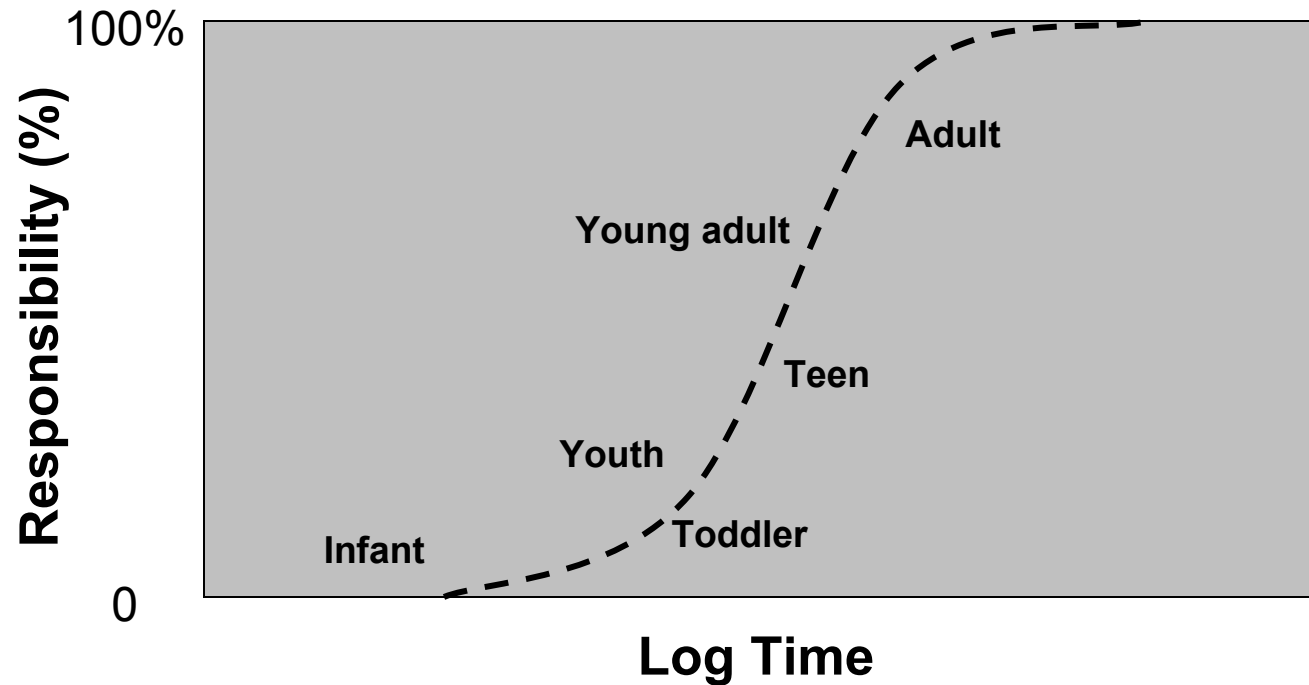


ILLUSTRATION - Transformation Kinetics

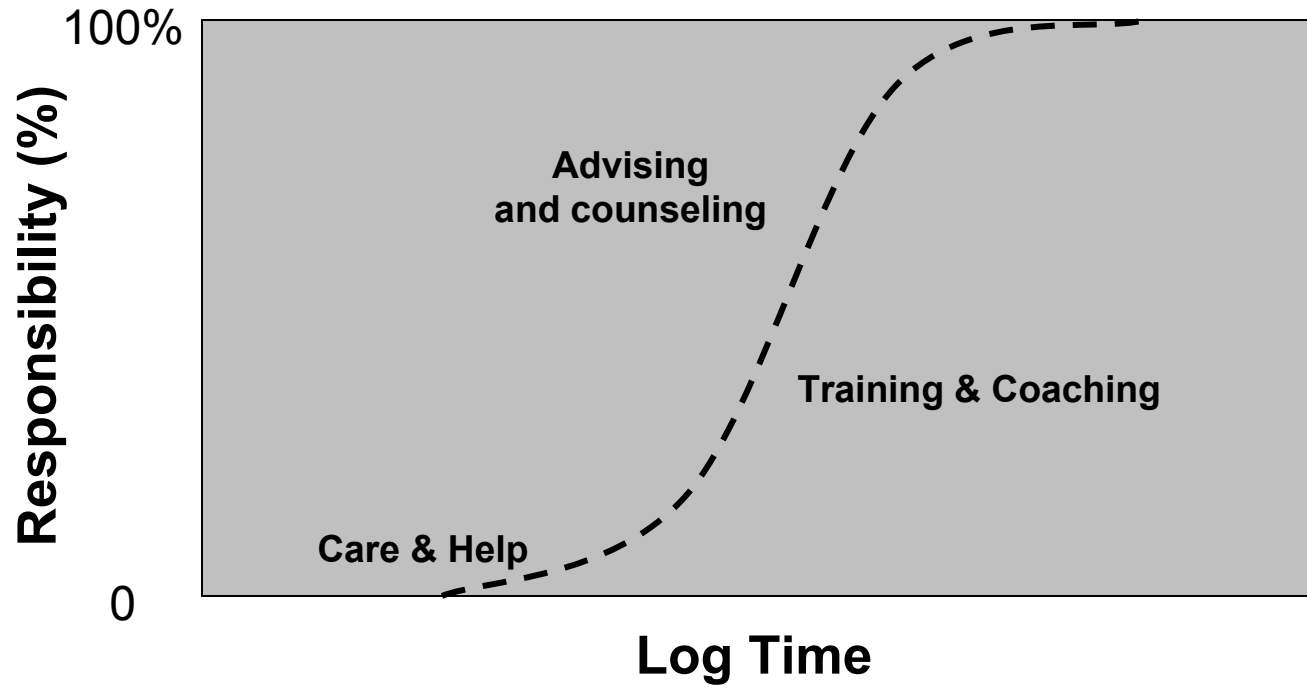
Many processes follow a sequence involving nucleation, growth, and subsequently saturation or depletion. At first, the rate of transformation is slow but increasing. It eventually reaches a steady pace. Finally, it decelerates, slowing gradually to a stop as the process runs its course, e.g. when resources are depleted or the system saturates.

Parenting



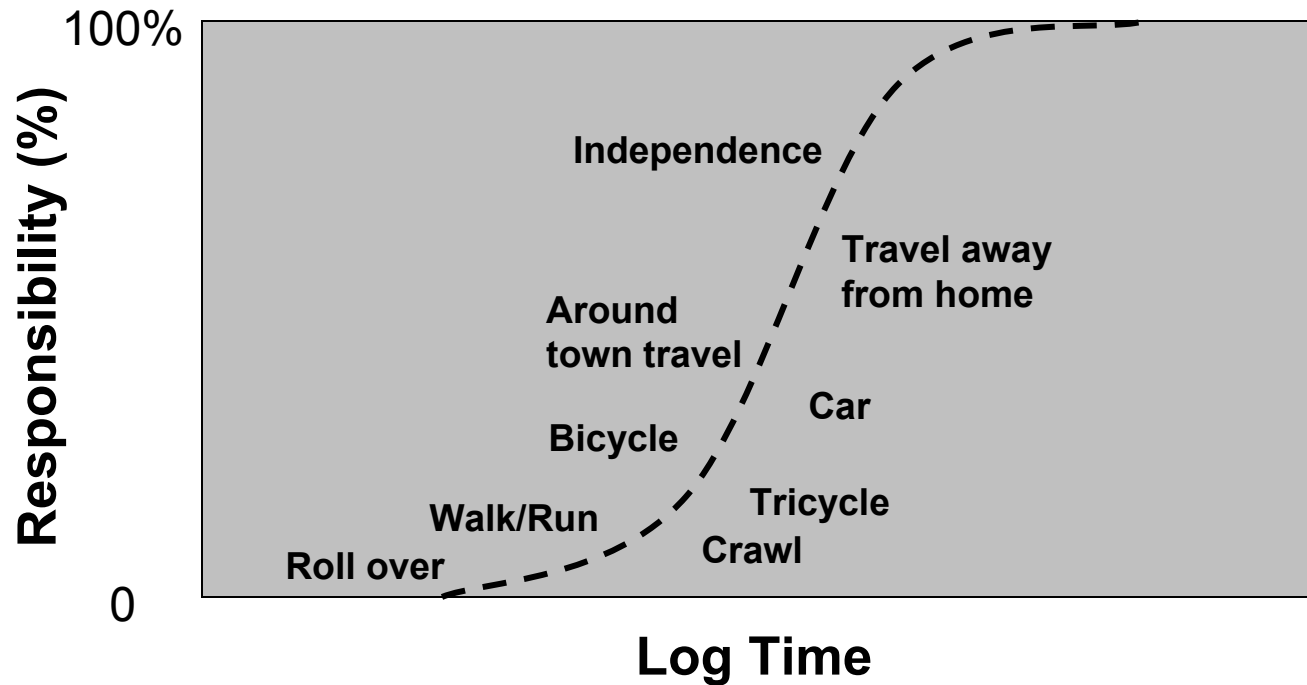
As in many transitioning processes, parenting starts with 100 % of the responsibility for a child's life and activities initially resting with the parents. But maturity and curiosity comes with time, propelling the child into new adventures and situations which place ever increasing demands upon them. Adventure and responsibility go hand in hand as the child grows, leading the child to reach for new borders beyond their home and family. The extent of their responsibilities and needs grow with capability, interest, means, outside influences, training, etc.

Parenting



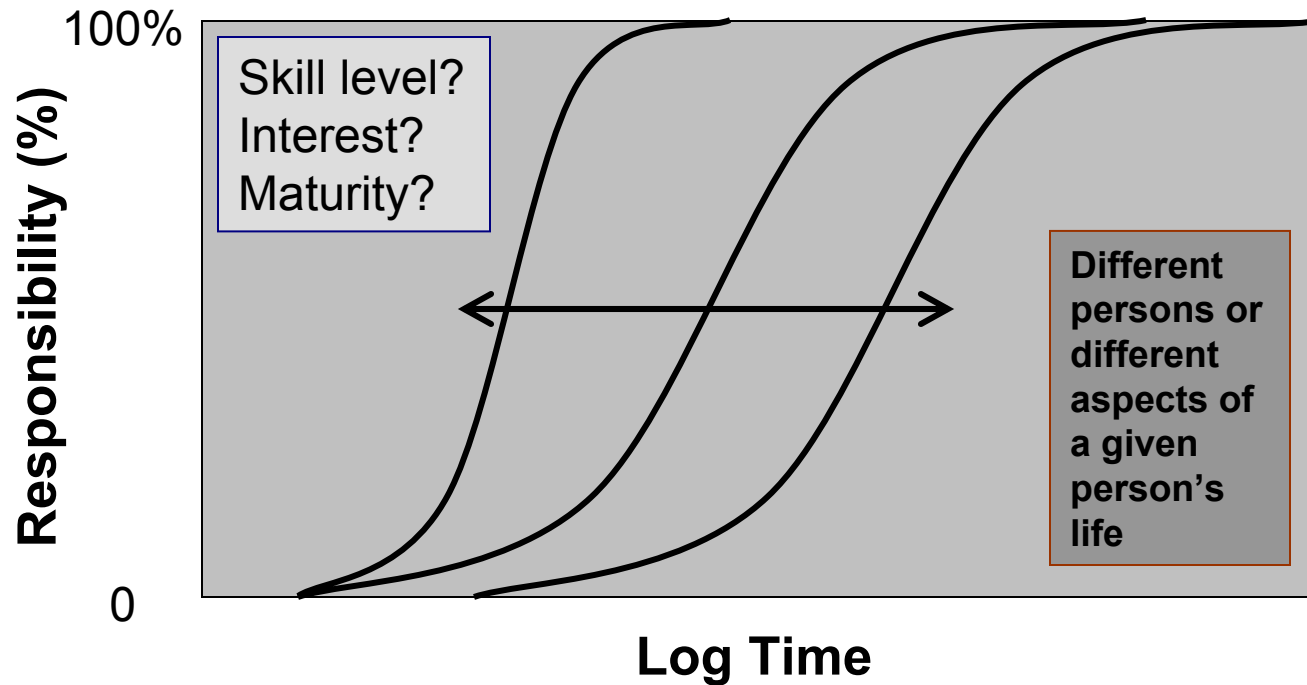
While every aspect of a new born's life requires the parents' attention, a natural progression relieves the parents of rudimentary responsibilities, but introduces them to new ones of greater complexity. With this shift in the maturing of the child, the transitioning of responsibility takes on a new and redirected emphasis, more complicated and involved. Changing diapers gives way to teaching personal hygiene, which further gives way to teaching morality and respect. Transitioning methods change from care to training, then on to coaching and counseling.

Parenting



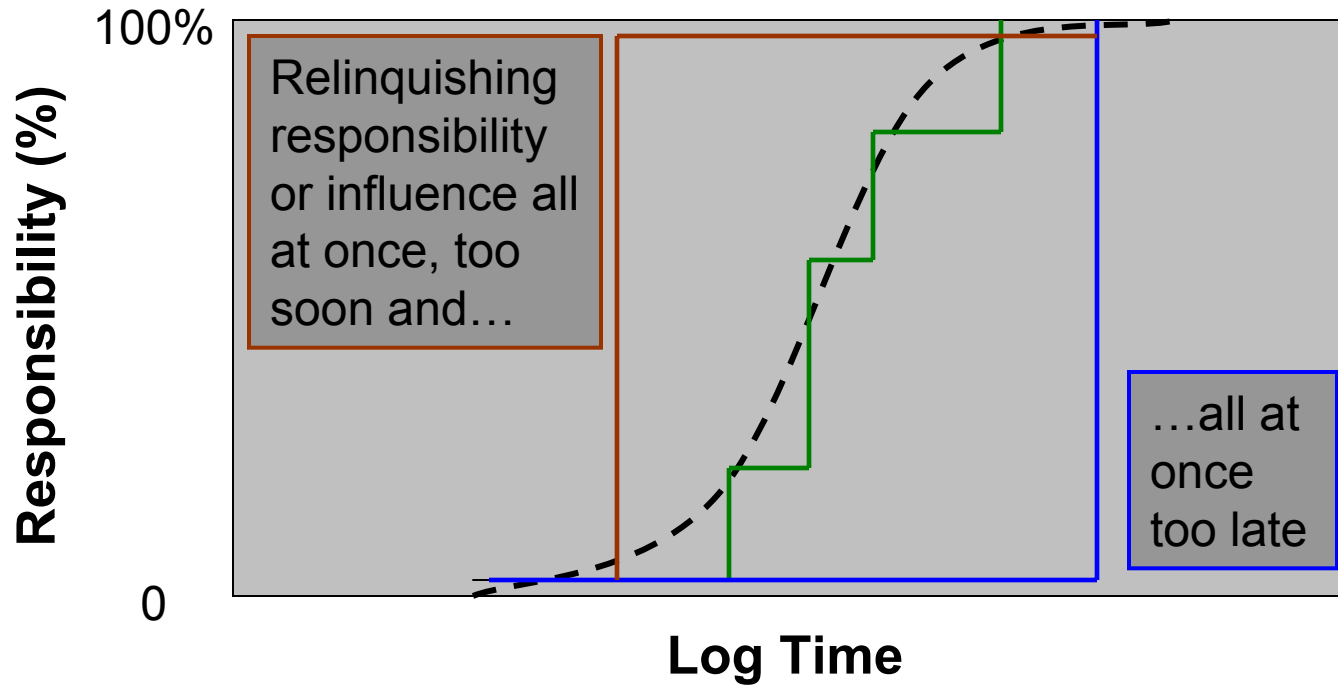
As the child begins to grow, this new person begins to assume more and more responsibilities, e.g. their own feeding, mobility, etc. They begin with small steps and gradually take long treks from home. Eventually they become independent, with their mobility and subsistence resting upon their own shoulders. They may still call for advice, but with less frequency.

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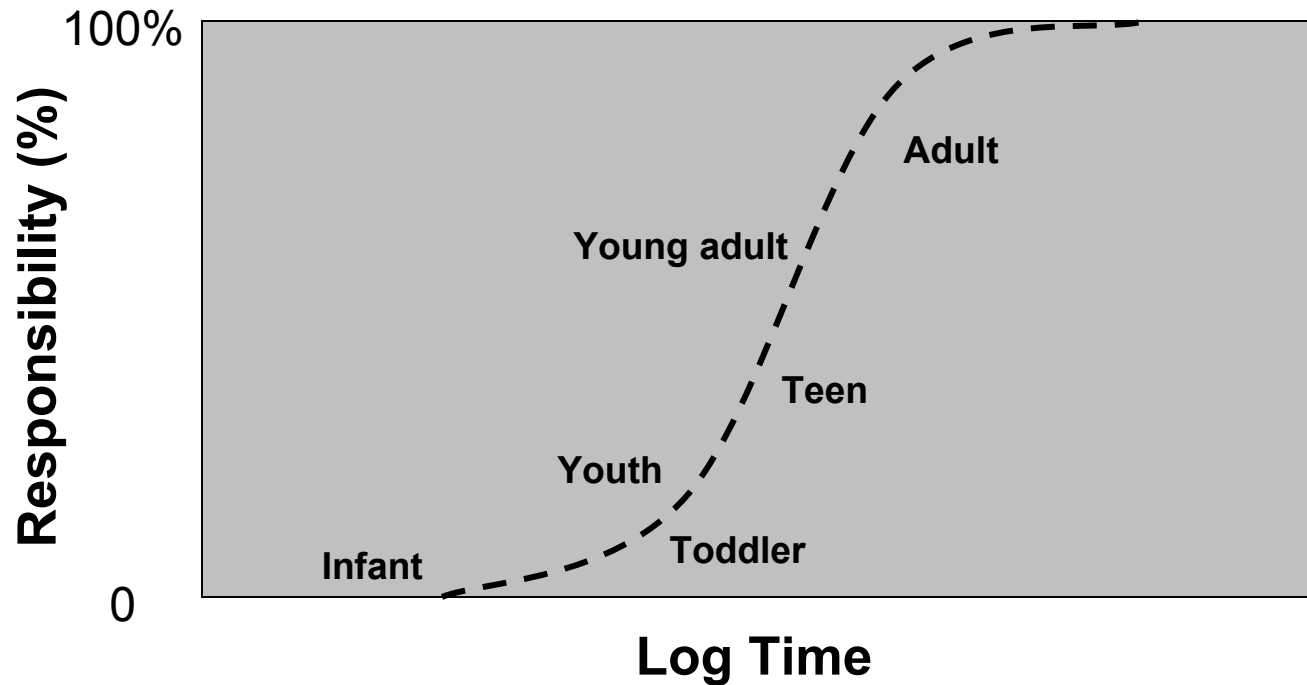
Some individuals are able to take on expanded responsibility at an earlier age than others. They may adapt more readily and at a faster pace. On a personal basis, an individual may be able to take on greater responsibility in some areas of their own life more readily than in other areas of their life. Much of which depends upon such things as interest, attitude, maturity, skill, aptitude, demands placed on them by circumstances, etc.

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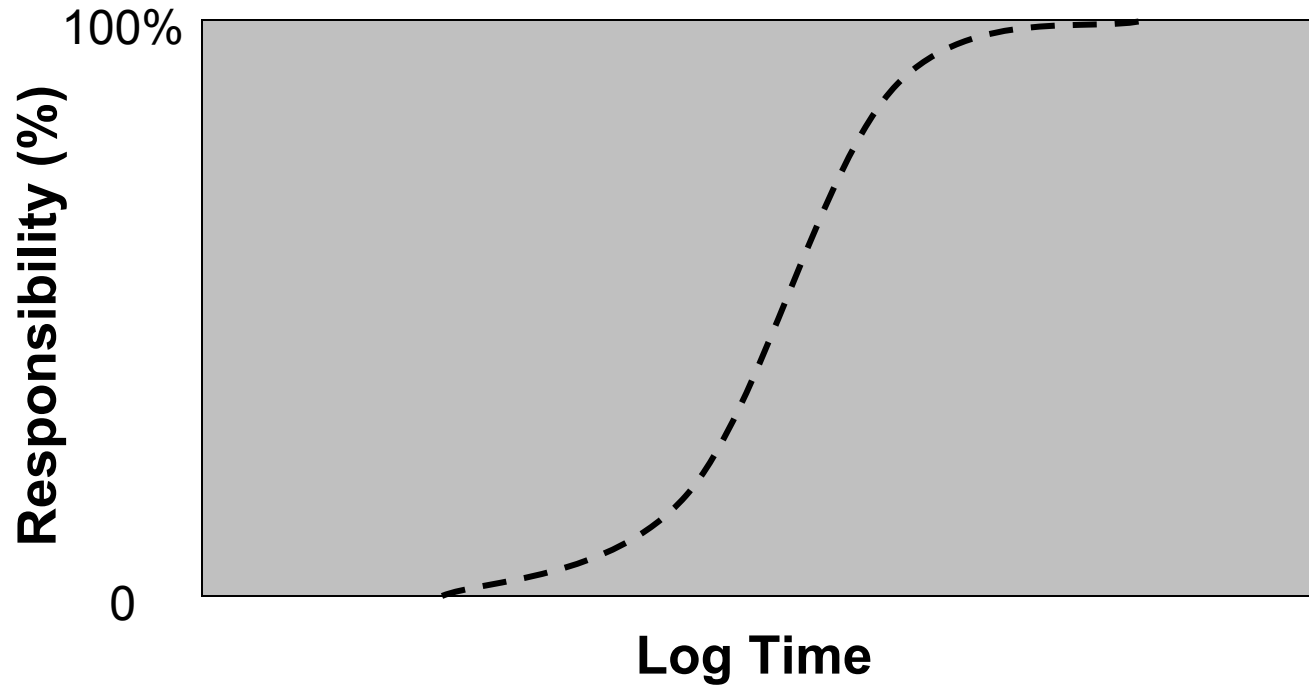
A parent may transition responsibility to their children in a smooth manner or in an abrupt, stepwise fashion. In a worst case scenario, responsibilities of adult proportions may be foisted on a child too soon, e.g. as a result of a family tragedy. Others may be "protected" from responsibility far beyond a time when they are capable of relying upon themselves. Abrupt, erratic changes like these can lead to a multiplicity of problems in a child's life relating to their ability to adapt when confronted with necessity and accountability.

Parenting



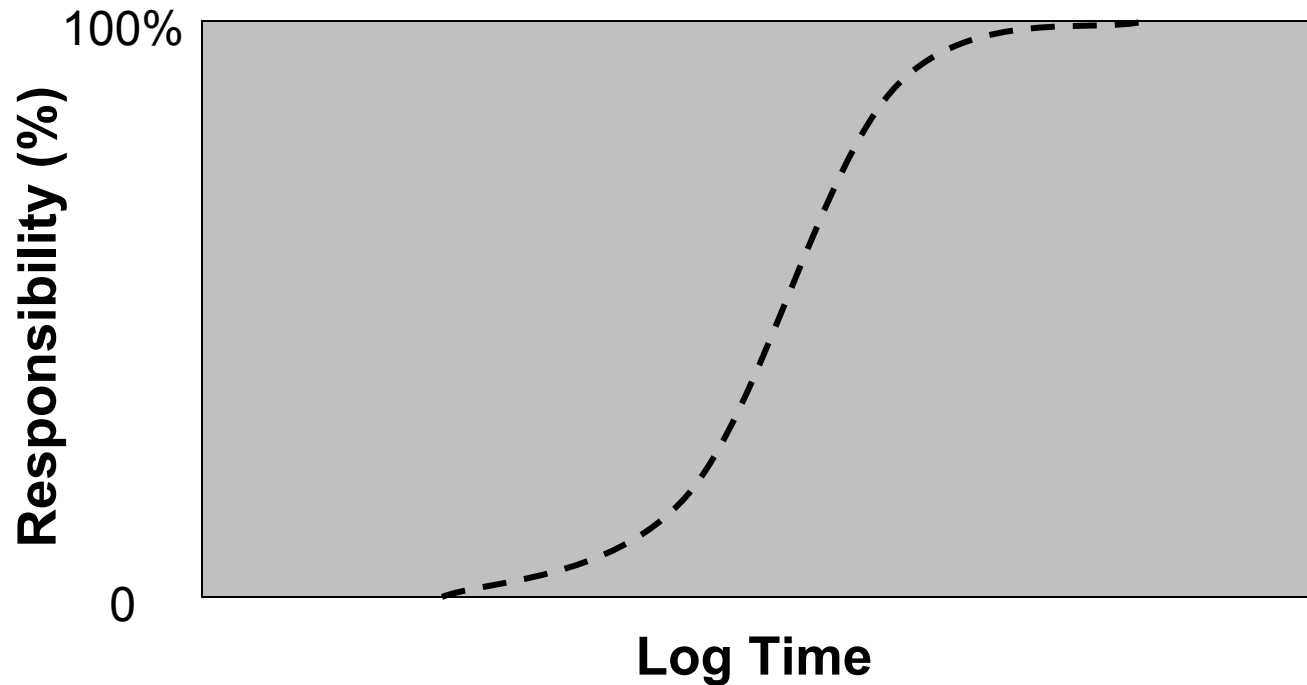
Parenting is about transitioning responsibility. This transitioning of responsibility can be handled in many ways. It can be done haphazardly, begrudgingly, impersonally, abruptly, carelessly, etc. Or it can be planned, flexible, adaptive, facilitated by training, supported with give and take during trial periods, supervised, set by example, etc.

Parenting



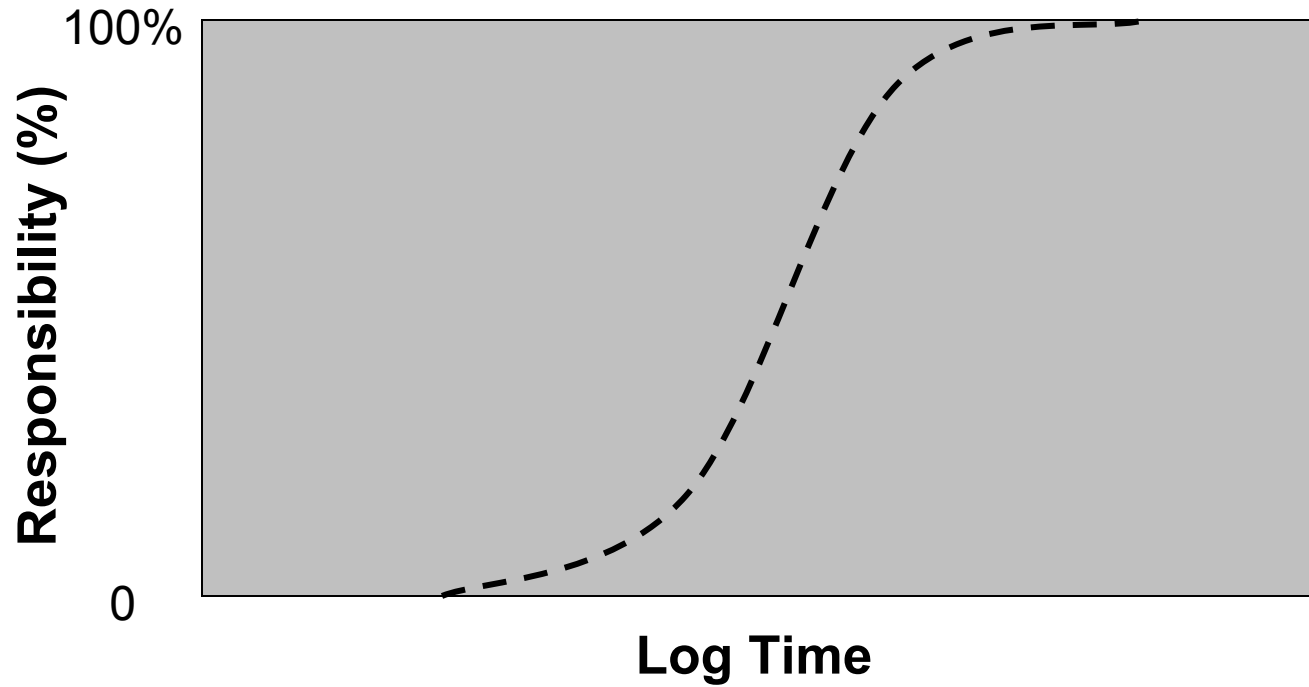
Parenting takes thought and intent. It takes effort and training. It takes a vision and a heart for the child's future. It takes a cooperative effort along with shepherding. It requires that a parent pay close attention to the child's development and interest in the various aspect of the child's life.

Parenting



Parenting involves more than just transitioning responsibilities that pertain to the things of this life. It ultimately involves transitioning a child's faith from his or her own parents to faith in *God*, the very *God* who gave each of us life, the very *God* who created us in His image, who forms us in our mother's womb and who calls us forth into the glorious light of His Son, Jesus Christ. Parenting requires *God's Word* to guide our children in the way of everlasting life. It involves nourishing them with that which is eternal.

Parenting



Parenting is the skillful art of transitioning responsibility.

