

Children First

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By

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“Working with education leaders to keep children first.”

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Ideas About Success In School

Seven Habits of Highly Successful Students

In this month's issue, I'd like to focus on seven success skills that can transform your child from an average to an above average student. Moreover, the skills learned, have lifetime transition. They can open the door to success in whatever career your child chooses to pursue.

It's important to remember that your support forms the foundation and your encouragement the momentum to help your children succeed. Your involvement makes all this work. Spend time discussing these points with your children. Help them learn how to use these skills and do all you can to encourage their implementation and application in daily activities. This is an investment of time that pays lifetime benefits. What better way for a parent to help their child! What a better way to help yourself!

Become An Effective Communicator

There are few skills in life that pay more dividends than to be able to speak, write and read well. Students able to express clear, logical thoughts in classroom discussions make better grades. Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities. This requires using their leadership abilities and relationship building skills. Both demand good speaking skills. Developing good diction and proper pronunciation of words separates them from their peers. Enroll them in a speech class. Working hard on this skill will have lifetime rewards.

How does one learn to write well? WRITE! That's it. Sounds simple? At every opportunity encourage your child to write. Start a journal, write articles and stories. The idea is to write. Seek good feedback on the clarity and effectiveness of the writings. Encourage learning this skill. Great writing skills foster creativity; help your child focus their thinking, and builds their self-confidence. Most people never learn to write well. Don't let your child be among those numbers. Make them write.

The glue that bonds speaking and writing is the first of the 3 R's—reading. Honing this skill improves the skills of speaking and writing. Do all you can to develop the reading habit within your child. Buy them books. Let them see you read. Use what they read to help develop their success mindset and their general knowledge. Set reading goals. One book a month is a good start. That quantity puts them in the upper percentile of books people read in a year. Speak, write, read—three great habits to make your child a winner.

Maintain A Positive Attitude

Successful students maintain a positive approach to their studies. They plan ahead for assignments and do the best they can every step of the way. Teach your children that their thoughts influence the results they get. Help them understand that a positive attitude directly correlates to the quality of their successes. Build confidence in their abilities and a strong desire to do well. Both help them climb the mountains of life. A positive attitude also helps develop a strong self-concept. We perform according to the view we hold of ourselves. To become a winner, one must begin with a positive attitude and a strong self-concept. You cannot find a successful student who lacks both.

Make Learning A Lifetime Pursuit

Too many students feel receiving their high school diploma marks the end of their learning days. Nothing could be further from the truth. Completing high school is the beginning of their learning journey, not the end. Help your child understand that a commitment to continuously improve their mind pays handsome dividends and is an integral part of a successful life. Students who master this process become the leaders of tomorrow.

Clearly Define Your Values

Successful people know what they stand for. Developing a clear vision for your life is the only way to begin a journey of successful activities. Values lay the foundation for our life's mission. Our mission in turn drives goal creation. Achieving goals is how progress is made. But the process begins by having a strong value system. Parents, become clear about what you stand for so you can help your children do the same.

Develop the Habit of Planning Each Day

Nothing beats the satisfaction of fulfilling your daily plans. Identify the most important tasks for each day. Work your plan. Doing so sets you apart from most people who simply react to the events of their day. Focusing on the critical tasks places your energy right where it should be. Students who plan never suffer from a lack of time to do their homework assignments. Study time is in their daily to do list. Help your children get into this most important habit and it will take much stress out of your life, reduce arguments about doing homework, and make the home environment much more pleasant.

Everything Counts

Help your child understand that every action has consequences. Teach your child to appreciate that doing the correct things raises their odds for success. Understand that life is not neutral. All actions cause a reaction. Build an awareness of what works and what doesn't work. With a keener awareness, one can prevent the same mistake from happening twice. Once is forgivable. Twice borders on stupidity.

Everyone Is Responsible For Their Life

We reach full maturity when we understand that we are in charge of our life. No one is coming to the rescue. If it is to be, it is up to me. Our time on earth is the real thing. This is not a dress rehearsal. By taking full responsibility for the results of all our actions, we avoid finger pointing and get a better understanding of how to keep acting in a successful manner. When we take charge, we can bask in the glory of success and we can more quickly learn from our lessons. Taking charge opens our eyes a bit more to observe what happens. When we do this, we experience fewer failures.

Closing Thought

I believe most parents want their children to succeed. In some cases, they just don't know how to help. If these ideas are not part of your lifestyle, why not adopt them. You are a role model for your child. Improving your performance will automatically help the performance of your children. Then, both of you will feel better. Now that is a real win-win effort.

Checkout Billy

Go to <http://www.SearchingForSuccess.com> to learn more about Billy's programs and services. Our results are guaranteed!

Build Your Success Library

Searching for Success is a great book for parents to build a strong value system within their children. Why not make it part of your training process with your child? Send your \$ 15.00 check now and receive a signed copy in the mail within a few days.

There's Another Newsletter for You

We publish a second monthly newsletter, *News from the Swamp*, which is filled with practical ideas on personal and organizational success techniques. You'll find value to help with your career and personal success strategies. Subscription information follows.

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