

Children First

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Written By

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“Working with education leaders to keep children first.”

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A Look Forward To 2005

To Get The Greatest Value From This Newsletter

When you receive this newsletter, print, three-hole punch and place it in a binder for future review. Place the binder in your bookcase. Take the binder with you on trips to read in down time. Review it while you're sitting down glancing at your TV screen or create your own unique way to re-read the words. Reviewing the messages reinforces the content and expands the possibilities of retention and implementation of information shared. Put the ideas to work for you. This is how winners learn and grow and I believe you are a winner!

Evaluate The Past—Build The Future One Step At The Time

Last month I suggested that you spend time reviewing and reflecting on issues you may have faced while parenting your children in the past year. Now it is time to begin using the insights generated from this reflection process. I realize we all start the New Year with great intentions. The adrenalin is pumping and we are ready to make a strong start. Within a few short weeks, we've lost all the energy, are searching for one drop of adrenalin and have quickly settled back into our same old rut. No criticism intended....we've all been guilty of such actions. It's very normal and very human!

So how can one make this year different? Rather than making a list of resolutions to change, pick one—the most important item in your life right now. What is the change that will make the most dramatic difference in your ability to successfully provide parenting for your child? Perhaps you want to consistently offer a daily word of encouragement, give them a hug and reassure them that you love them and are their support mechanism. Begin by focusing all your thoughts, energy and commitment to get this one item from thought to action. Do this until the new habit is engrained into your subconscious. Eventually this will become like breathing.

I can recall that my wife began to teach my two boys how to make their bed in the morning before they left for school. They complained that this was “girl work.” But she persisted. It took a lot of patience and sometimes looking briefly (until they left for school) at a not so perfect looking bed. But she never stopped encouraging and teaching them the right way, no matter the objections. Within a short period of time their actions became interesting to watch. They would get up, dress for school and begin to straighten out their bed. They eventually became very good at doing this and maintained the habit until they moved out of the house on their own.

Parenting is tough work. But, it is also responsible work. Take it seriously. You only get one chance with each child. Resolve to make 2005 different by starting small and simple.

The Mindset of A New Beginning

I've always personally liked the month of January because it represents the start of a new year. There is something about that idea that has the ability to rekindle lost enthusiasm from the struggles of the past twelve months. In actuality, January 1 is just one day past December 31, no different than any other two consecutive days in the year. Symbolically however, the change in the year adds a renewal mindset that no other two consecutive days offers.

Get into the mindset of a new beginning and view the upcoming year as an opportunity to improve on your greatness and to reduce the quantity of struggles you may have experienced in the past as a parent. Every action starts with a thought. Improve your thinking and you improve your results.

Providing Ideas To Help You

My original goal for beginning this newsletter slightly over a year ago was to offer parents some insights to make parenting more effective and less stressful. I'm pleased that our subscriptions have steadily increased and no subscription cancellations have occurred. That last fact is most pleasing and tells me that you've appreciated the topics selected. For that, I'm grateful.

To better serve you in the coming months, please feel free to email me anytime at barcement@eatel.net with a topic suggestion you'd like discussed in a future issue. I promise to never deliver an "off the top of my head" response. If I have doubts on how to address your topic, I'll consult with experts or simply admit you've stumped me. It is never my intent to lead you astray with improper thinking.

A New Year Wish For You

May the coming year bring great prosperity, stronger family ties, and a joyous environment in which to raise your children. I thank you for your faithful following and support for this newsletter. It's a labor of love and my sincere pleasure to provide monthly doses of things to think about.

Closing Thoughts

The world is currently witnessing one of the most destructive events in human history. The death and devastation caused by the tsunami in the Asian Rim is almost beyond human comprehension. Over 125,000 have died, many children. I struggle to understand the magnitude of this event and pray that those left behind will find the strength and courage to move on with their life.

As we move into the New Year, let's keep our prayers and thoughts focused on this part of the world and on our troops in Iraq. They all need the power of our prayers.

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.

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. The next issue goes out January 17. Subscription information follows.

Value Added Ideas

You may reprint content from this newsletter or publish one of our many articles from our archives to add value to your publications. Send an email request to barcement@eatel.net and specify your needs.

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