

Children First

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By

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"Working with education leaders to keep children first."

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Attention

Spammers are trying to get people to open emails with viruses by pretending the email is from a name you would recognize and trust. If you receive an email from me with an attachment, please know that I did not send it and it is probably a virus. DO NOT OPEN IT. If you receive an attachment from me and are not sure, please email me before opening it to find out if it is legitimate. Thank you."

This month, we celebrate Father's Day. Being one of "those guys," I'm taking the liberty to provide a message for all the dads who might read this newsletter. Feel free to pass it on to anyone you know who is a dad or to someone who might benefit from the message.

A Few Thoughts on Fatherhood

Life offers many privileges. For me, the most significant is being a parent. My wife and I were blessed with four children. Raising them was not easy and I certainly could not have done it alone. The help and support of my wife was critically important.

When we become parents, we tend to mimic the parenting style of our own parents or we profit from our observations and hopefully improve on how they did things. Raising children is the ultimate responsibility one can undertake. Careers are important but children outrank a job. Parenting requires constant evaluation of our performance because children don't come with an instruction manual. We rely on instinct, past observations of parenting, the advice of friends and family, our own research and virtually anything else we feel might help. It's a 24 / 7 job.

It takes years to see if the sacrifices, prodding, pushing, fussing, loving and everything else you did for your children worked. I find myself now evaluating if the values my wife and I tried to instill in our children have taken root. We did not start out nor did we wish to create clones of ourselves. Each child is a composite of our genes and their own person. And, we like it that way. There were basic core values that we consistently and constantly emphasized. They are now the checklist with which we gage our success as parents.

Each child is different and brings his or her own special gifts to the world. Sometimes children hurt. Sometimes they make you burst with pride. Emotions run the gamete. But I know of nothing more satisfying than holding your child in your arms.

I am dismayed and very disappointed in men who refuse to be fathers. Some use children as a status symbol of their manhood yet contribute nothing but sperm to their creation. There is nothing manly about an absent father. Some, while present, abuse

their children physically and even sexually. There is nothing manly about physically overpowering a child or scarring them for life to satisfy a sick sexual desire. Some, through their own selfishness, fail to provide financial support. They drink or drug away monies needed to raise their children. They divorce and fail to provide monies for child support. There is nothing manly about deadbeat dads.

On June 20, the nation will celebrate Father's Day. It's a fitting tribute to those who have earned the title. I want to take this moment to congratulate all fathers who have stood by their children and diligently worked to help them become responsible adults.

In the end, we will be judged by the way we lived our life. Part of that legacy rests in the character of our children. Will you pass or fail this part of the judgment?

Career Choices for Your Children

One of the tasks of parenthood is to help direct the career path of our children. Having gone through this process with each of my children, I know how much working with knowledgeable people helps. If my children had a desire to learn about a certain line of work, I'd arrange for them to meet with someone who was actually doing the work so they could get first-hand feedback about that career. The process worked well for them. Most people are very willing to help.

A second source of information is to speak to individuals who do career counseling. Today, I was in conversation with a long-time friend, Dr. Shirley White who specializes in career counseling. Located in Baton Rouge, LA, Shirley is an excellent resource for a myriad of career services. If you have a child searching for their destination in life, let me suggest you contact Shirley. If you are looking for help, you may wish to look into her services as well. Shirley can be reached via email at info@successimages.com or by phone at 225-769-2307. You can learn more about Shirley and her services at www.successimages.com.

Checkout Billy

Billy Arcement, MEd. is one of the premier speakers for business meetings, educational conferences and governmental strategic planning sessions. His work helping school boards make all decisions for the benefit of children is a refreshing change from "business as usual." He also has quality messages for school administrators, teachers, and business leaders. He blends thought provoking ideas with his "Cajun Stories" to bring audiences a winning combination guaranteed to make your event a success.

His "*wisdom makes a difference*" as he conducts executive coaching with leaders in the business, government and education communities.

Call. We'd love to help! 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 use to build a strong value system within their children. The content can also help make them better students. 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.

Take A Moment To Reflect on These Thoughts Dad

In past issues, I've shared poems from a variety of sources. This month, I thought I'd create one of my own.

On Being A Father

**As a father of children, you should keep nothing in reserve.
It's your job to provide your children what they deserve.
Fathers must serve as mentors, comforters, providers, and a source of love.
All this takes much help from our spouse and from the Lord above.**

**Don't get caught up in the "I'm the boss syndrome."
In the end, children will venture where they want to roam.
All you can do is offer wisdom and insight.
And pray like heck with all your might.**

**There are times when you'll wonder, "How will I get it done?"
The pressures of fatherhood can keep you on the run.
But in the end the pride, joy, and happiness children can bring
Will make all your troubles seem like a small thing.**

**For there is no greater role that one can play
Then that of being a father to your children every day.
Keep in mind that even when you don't have a clue
They'll melt your heart with a simple, "I love you."**

**I'm thankful every day that I've been blessed
With children that didn't leave me in a mess
Each in their own special way
Have truly made my Father's Day.**

There's Another Newsletter for You

Some of you may not be aware that we publish a second monthly newsletter, *News from the Swamp*. It is filled with practical ideas on personal and organizational leadership topics. You'll find value to help with your career and personal success strategies. Read how you can start getting this valuable information source each month below.

Value Added Ideas

You may reprint content from this newsletter or from past issues. We're also happy to provide you with articles from our archive of previously published articles

to add value to your publications. Send an email request to barcement@eatel.net and specify your needs.

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