

# Children First

## Issue # 18: March 2005

Written By

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**“Working with education leaders to keep children first.”**

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### 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. 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!

### Parents Are Leaders Too

As a parent, you think of yourself as Mom or Dad. But, in reality, you are much more. Beyond the Mom and Dad label, you are the leader of your family. It’s a demanding role. You are the role model for your children shaping and molding their ideals by the way you act and talk. Strong leaders never forget that they are always on display. And, so are you.

I was recently reading a book by John Maxwell entitled, *Developing the Leaders Around You—How to help others reach their potential*. In Chapter Four, he discusses nurturing potential leaders. As I read his words, I began to think how beneficial these ideas would be for parents.

Maxwell uses the BEST acronym to help remember his points. The “B” represents *Believe*. As parents, we must believe in our child. Our belief can provide internal motivation for our children to excel and move towards maximizing their potential. Isn’t that what all good parents want? As you review your parenting on this front, how do you express your belief in your child? Do you suggest they “stretch” their potential and take risks? Do you make them comfortable that you will stand by them no matter the results? How deeply do you believe in the potential of your child?

The second letter, “E,” stands for *Encourage*. Do you encourage participation in extra-curricular activities such as club membership, class leadership, church or sports activities? Do you help your child maintain a positive outlook, supporting him or her when they are burdened by the trials and tribulations of childhood?

The “S” is for *Share*. As adults, we have lived longer and experienced a great deal more of life than our children. Now I know what you’re thinking—they don’t want to hear my “war stories.” My response—tell them anyway. Some of your sharing will stick; some will go by the wayside. But don’t stop sharing your experiences so your children don’t have to repeat your mistakes or don’t have to wait as long to be successful with their efforts. Don’t preach. Just teach. There is a difference. Children turn off the preaching but are open to a sincere teaching experience.

The letter “T” is represented by the word *Trust*. Build a trusting relationship with every child. Let them know that they can confide in you; they can trust that you will be

there for them in times of need. When a trust bond is created, children will seek your opinion and ask questions. Trust is built on truth. Building the proper bond depends upon you always sharing truth.

Become the BEST parent you can be by incorporating these components into your parenting style. Properly done, both parent and child become the BEST!

## **Endurance**

The natural tendency of people is to take the easy way out. And, children are no exception to this tendency. As parents, one of our many duties is to help instill a sense of endurance within the soul of our children. Mastering the ability to endure when hope is fading can be the magic motivator. Without hope, we sink into hopelessness. And hopelessness is our greatest enemy.

We are charged with encouraging our children to become all their innate abilities will allow. When our children fall trying to walk for the first time, we encourage them to try again. When they finally succeed, we smile and express joy at their accomplishment. Over time some parents become less of the encourager. Then one day they feel their children have grown up and they don't have to encourage them any more. But nothing could be further from the truth. No matter our age, we all need encouragement. We all need to be able to overcome the obstacles life places in our path. We all need to be more enduring.

Become the best encourager you can and you will serve your children well. Helping children master the tenacity required to build a successful life is a gift. Quitting is the easy way out. It takes more courage to continue when quitting becomes the much easier choice. But the price for endurance is far less in our lifetime than the cost of quitting. Don't bankrupt your children by refusing to become their cheerleader.

## **Building A Learning Mindset**

Knowledge is the foundation but it is the application of knowledge that makes things happen. When we use the correct knowledge and properly apply it to a specific situation, success results. Over time, successes build our experience base. And it is our experiences that form the cornerstone for our future decisions.

Helping your child understand this process builds a learning mentality. Encourage learning and you build a worthy experience base that will produce greater successes in the life of your children.

Make learning a lifetime activity. Help your children understand the lessons life offers. Build their experience base through the application of knowledge. Learning new information in a broad range of topics makes one more able to appreciate and cope with day-to-day events. A learning mindset is the thinking mode of all successful people.

## **Closing Thoughts**

I recently heard a speaker say, "Leadership is everything." Truer words were never spoken. Helping a child understand the value of mastering leadership skills is a necessity in the competitive environment they face. I can personally think of no greater skill that helped me advance my career than the ability to provide leadership in a variety

of settings. The rules of leadership don't change with circumstances. Whether it's parenting or leading a large corporation, the methodology and mechanics of leading are not too different. When you help your child master the art of leading, you will separate them from the masses that generally prefer to follow. It truly is easier to lead. Besides, when you are the lead dog, you will always have a better view.

## 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 March 15. 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](mailto:barcement@eatel.net) and specify your needs.**

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