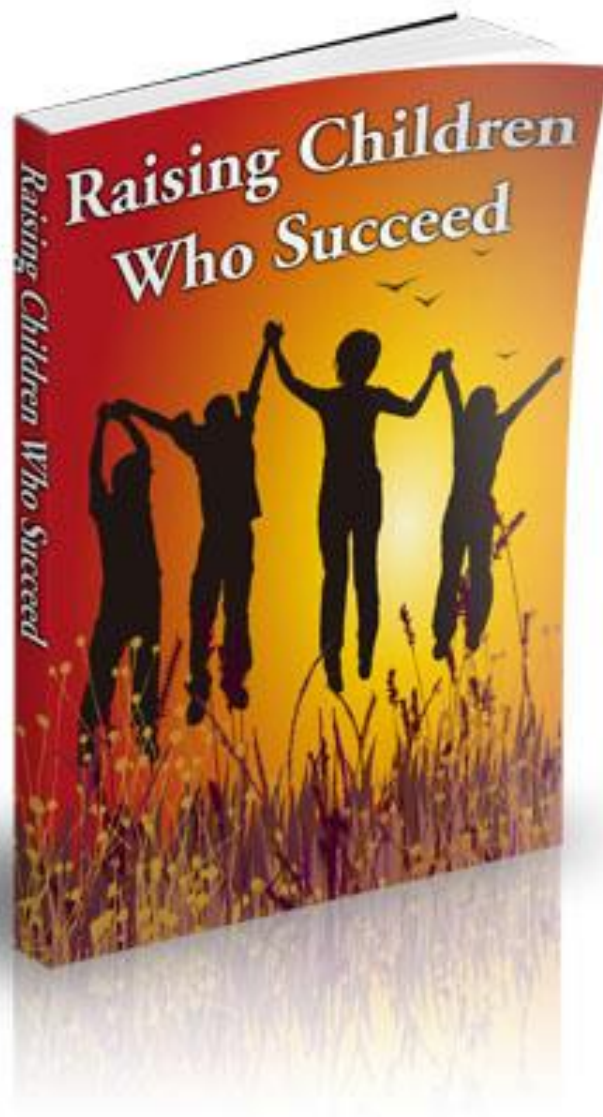


# Raising Children Who Succeed!



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# **Raising Children Who Succeed**

It is one of the most powerful things any person alive can do, to choose to raise a child. Whether he or she is a genetically related child or one you have gained from another family, a child is a life long commitment. It's worse than a puppy!

There is a well known saying that to have a child is to wear your heart forever outside your body. TO some extent that is true. Think teenage angst was bad? It's noting on the first time you have to deal with your own child's heartbreak!

With our busy lives it is so easy to become geared up to making sure our children have all the essentials covered, such as food, shelter, learning to read and write, and all those important jobs done, that we forget that so much of what our children need us for is for us to impart a spark of desire in them to succeed, to become all they were made to be.

It's the drive of many parents to watch their child surpass them in their life in some way. Whether it is with a talent, a discovered passion, or their standard of living, children should be able to combine what they learn from our mistakes, and our life lessons with the lessons and opportunities they themselves face and collate them together to succeed.

To have a successful child we need to create a childhood that breeds success. The best part about this is it doesn't cost you thousands of dollars in

private school fees or in plenty of extra curricular activities. In fact with just a little time, some listening and a whole lot of talking you can beat those things in most part hands down.

Helping a child succeed in today's world is a little different than it was a few generations ago. Back then, it was considered wise to teach your child to become a salary and wage earner, working in a stable job from the moment they left school until retirement. Success was measured by how long you stayed in the same job. Consistency and stability were the favoured attributes.

Then it was all about working your way up, about starting out in the business, any business and working your way up to the top, not worrying about whose toes you may step on on the way.

More recently things have changed. The more recent generations coming out of school accept they will probably have at least four to five career changes over the course of their life. They know how to flaunt their talents and sell themselves and aren't too scared to do it.

These kids, the ones who succeed today, are good at finding the gaps in the market and driving towards them. They'll walk from a job that doesn't offer them a good mix of lifestyle opportunities, perks and career advancement. They often prefer to work to contract than be tied to a permanent position. Security and consistency aren't words in their employment vocabulary.

This is important to understand as you look at raising your own children. This current generation seeking employment may have different attributes than the one your child will be in, but it's likely to be more in line with how it will be than the generations of your parents and of yourself.

Our children today are growing up with a very different world view than the one we once had. They want to be self employed, own their own businesses, and pursue creative endeavors. While of course some children still veer to traditional roles, the majority of children feel attracted to roles that were previously seen as just for those creative types. Even jobs in IT can be incredibly interactive and creative, and children in our technological ages are attracted to them



# How Do We Define Success?

Of course simply said, our child is a success if they grow to be healthy, happy and able to be independent of us. However for most of us, while we say that is all we want for our children, it's not all we expect from them

Take a moment to look at your own life/ How do you measure your own success? Is it through the type of possessions you own, the work you do, the way you live your life? Is it your relationships, your children? Think about what you feel is a success in your life and write them down.

The amazing thing about parenting is that we teach our children even when we don't mean to. So that list of your own successes are important. It gives you a starting point of what your child is already learning from you about what is important in your life, and they will follow it.

Once you have created your lists read over it once more and think about how you learnt those elements of success. Put them into groups – emotional, spiritual, and physical and economics. This report will help look at all of these as a group, but it's important to consider them individually to begin with.

We all have different areas that we consider are the most important to measure our success in. For some finding one person to spend the rest of your life with, raising children together, maybe the pinnacle of your success. For another it maybe

growing a business and becoming the CEO of a world wide organization, and for another it may be working with a group of people who need the services of someone committing a lifetime of free work alongside them. All of these are important. All of them add to the world we live in.

TO create a successful child, we need first to recognize that success isn't just about being the richest child on the block. It's about awakening the inert dreams and hopes each one of our children hold inside their heart and bringing them to life. If we do this, then our children will succeed.

While our children will copy us, and follow us, they are not carbon copies of us. Even if you've come from a long line of doctors, and you yourself are one, it doesn't mean your daughter is going to be the same. Once we have worked out how WE measure success and what values we want to share with our children through our modeling of those measures, we then need to acknowledge they are a separate person from us, and still may go a completely different route.

The precise nature of how they show their success isn't as important as how they carry out any task before them. The skills we need to run an NGO in a third world country are very similar to those of running a business or a home. It's just placing them in a different context.

To succeed children need to be able to work with a wide range of people (have good people management and leadership skills), to be able to



identify a problem and then also have an idea of how they can go about solving it. This combination is a winning success formula suitable to a variety of ways your child may display their success.

Children need our expectations and our ability to call out of them positive attributes, but they don't need us to carve out a specific future for them. They are able, even at a young age to do that themselves.

# What Don't Children Need

Whatever the planned end result of your child's success, all children start with the same needs and wants. Essentially it's the same plan to create the most successful life.

The best and most powerful thing to realize is that you can't stuff it up with one mistake. Non of us are perfect, so you are going to make mistakes You'll lose your temper, forget to watch a game, say no to something deeply important. Funnily enough it's as much our own mistakes in parenting as our successes that can contribute to our children's success. Our mistakes can give our children a point of comparison.

Most children who grow to be hugely successful had often almost dysfunctional upbringings. They may have lost a parent early on, lived in near poverty or just never fitted into school. There are many external factors that occur to our children that we have no control over. And these things, instead of being a negative influence, can turn around and become part of what creates success for them. Perfection is not required.

Luxury is also not a necessary part of your child's success. Children who grow up in luxurious surrounds with all their physical needs met don't develop the hunger they need to g out and make it on their own. They have no need to- to all intents and purposes they've already got it.

Some very wealthy people choose to raise their children very humbly and simply to encourage them to create their own path to success.

If we provide our children with everything they need, and everything they want, they have no reason to solve the problem of how to get what they want. If you are familiar with the story of Charlie and the Chocolate factory, the characters of each child besides Charlie are of parents who love their children through indulgence.

If we have a lot it feels natural to give to our children. However the best gift we can impart is the gift of developing their own resourcefulness. It's a little bit more of a long term thing, but it's a powerful gift to give.

This is great news for those parents amongst us who worry about how a lack of finances can negatively impact their child. It doesn't need to. The saying necessity is the mother of invention is certainly true when it comes to our children developing creative and inquiring minds.

## **CASE STUDY**

Megan has three children. Last year she was earning a lot of money and it really was easy to let her children take lots of lessons after school in ballet, drama and French. They pretty much we allowed to do what they want. Their wardrobes were filled with designer clothes, and the toys were everywhere.

Megan's children weren't spoiled in behavior but they were very blasé about looking after their possessions as it all felt a little easy come, easy goes. But Megan persevered.

Around four months ago Megan lost several large contracts and suddenly had more time to spend with the children, but also discovered it wasn't so easy to just go out and buy things with the children, or fill their after school time with activities

Much to her surprise her children didn't complain. In fact they said they enjoyed the time they have now more. They have become experts at finding free or very cheap activities to do together as a family that are often educational and inspiring. Her eldest child, though a little too young to work, has begun to display strong entrepreneurial skills after Megan explained that the extra money for treats had to come from somewhere, and that somewhere wasn't going to be her own bank balance.

Megan's discovered that not giving her children everything can sometimes be one of the most important gifts you can pass onto your child.

**[>> Learn more about Jim's super simple, logical, sequential system of teaching reading, please click here to watch a short video explaining his methods.](#)**

# What They Do Need

The path to our children's success begins right at the start. Our children are not born as an empty vessel, waiting to be filled. Each one already has some innate talents, a personality that will develop and grow. If you have more than one child, you'll know how amazing it is to watch both children grow up in the same environment but grow so differently, and respond to different things.

While our child is not an empty vessel, they are a little like a sponge, absorbing both the good and bad that comes their way. It's our job to create an environment that gives them a strong foundation to build their success from.

Of course each and every one of us can think of one famous, extraordinarily success person who can from such horror and heartbreak that we look at that and see that only people with a tortured home life have the ability to succeed. But for every story of horror, there are far more people who succeed from happy, settled and sorted homes- their stories just don't make quite as good a read!

To start the foundations right, all children need an environment of good boundaries, routines, rules and responsibility. These words are often bandied about but the following is a basic rundown of how these work to created success.

## **BOUNDARIES**

These are not hard fences, but are rather the universal laws governing your home. The first boundary has to be love, and is best started from birth. Your child's understanding of unconditional love, that you'll be there for them no matter what begins here. If this boundary is well established everything else is easier. You need to attend to your baby's needs, as they occur, and learn to read the personality of your baby and adapt your parenting to suit. One baby may be best suited to being held for long periods of time, born touch hungry, while another one prefers to have time alone in their cot. Each child needs to be parented differently.

After love, comes consequences. Focus on natural consequences, such as tidying up a mess they've made themselves, paying for the window they broke, or apologizing face to face for a wrong they've committed. This has to be age appropriate (young children may sometimes only clean up a portion of the mess, and you help with the rest), and it needs to be consistent. Every one is allowed to have a rough day where you just sort it out yourself, but it's good to keep going with the boundaries you've created. The chief boundaries basically boil down to three important precepts: Respect for self, respect for others, and respect for things.

Creating good boundaries is important. As an adult we sometimes make conscious decisions to enlarge our boundaries, to allow people to walk over us a

little, or sometimes we do the same to them, particularly in business. But well established boundaries help in all areas of our life from relationships to business. They help us to avoid addiction, and build positive, strong and effective relationships with others- all of which add to our success.

**CHALLENGE:** Spend some time looking at the boundaries, the natural boundaries you have today. These are often our physical environment, our state of fitness and finances, and time to list a few. See how these all naturally curtail us and create boundaries? Of course for huge success to happen most of us need to step outside these boundaries at some point, and walk almost by faith, but this works best if we first know where the boundaries lie, and which ones are more important (those that are relationship based for example) than others.

## **ROUTINES**

For some routines adds a certain gleam to the eye, while for others cultivating routines send you into the realm of panic attacks.

While some like to run a home with military precision, the most positive way to create routine is out of need, rather than a quest for perfection. Perfection creates stress and anxiety.

We want a happy, full home for our children instead. A home with children in it shouldn't be immaculate all hours of the day- children thrive best in a slightly unkempt and creative

atmosphere. If you've spent more time in the last week cleaning than interacting with your children, you may need to renegotiate how you are allocating your time.

Routines cater to a child's most basic needs: for food, sleep, shelter, health and sense of self. When looking at these, you can see why it's important to add routines for mealtimes, bedtimes, and bath times and time with you or alone. It doesn't need to be regimented to the minute, though it is probably a good idea for both you and your child if some things are. For example, select several types of food for breakfast, and your child can choose amongst those every day, rather than have a new and improved breakfast every morning. Set a bed time, and stick to it.

The best thing about routines is not about the sticking to them black and blue, day in and day out part. The best thing is when you decide to trust your child to a non routine moment. A child LOVES the occasional late night far more if they know it's secretly past their bedtime. Kids love getting pancakes on a Sunday as it means it's a different day to the rest of the week when all they had was toast or cornflakes. If everyday is a haphazard day they don't have anything to center themselves on, and treats get all mixed into the chaos.

**CHALLENGE:** Set some routines in place- and let them suit both you and your children. Sit down with them to explain any changes and then introduce them. If you are not used to giving your children routines, do expect some resistance (can



feel like a lot!) and just remember to be consistent and calm while making sure those new routines get established. Some children will adjust easier; others will take up to three weeks to adjust. If it's a good routine (such as a regular bedtime) you may be surprised at how fast you begin to see some huge payoffs for your decision.

## **RULES**

All rules stem from the boundaries we've created. There doesn't need to be a lot of these, in fact it's easier to keep them as simple and as consistent as possible. Develop rules that both develop a good sense of respect for self, others and things, and develops responsibility

Most of us work better if we have a little carrot in front of us. It may be money, or time off, or the longer term payoff of a better relationship. These are the things that drive us.

Rules are far more likely to be adhered to if children can see the payoff for doing so. Work out consequences for rules not being adhered to and stick to them firmly right from the start. If your child is consistently bucking the system, look at the rules. Does your child perceive it's fair? Are they confused as one day you make them stick to the rules and the next day you don't? Keep it simple, keep it consistent. Sit down and work out the basic rules of your home. These can be quite broad, and relate back to the boundaries.

They may be as follows:

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