

Inspiring High Achievement!!!

~ Helping Our Kids Develop Intrinsic Motivation to Learn ~

☺ “Love and Logic” to the Rescue ☺

We can't *make—or force—* our kids to be excited about learning... but we CAN create homes and classrooms where they are inspired to develop this passion from the inside-out. Do we desire kids who always require “outside-in” motivation... or kids who have it from the inside-out?

When we slide toward the cliff of trying to *make/force* kids into highly motivated students, we take on the task of trying to control someone else. Because we can only control our own behavior... and that's quite difficult as well... we find ourselves becoming more and more frustrated with our children and ourselves. It doesn't take long for all of this frustration to push us toward counterproductive behaviors such as threats, lectures, punishment, begging, bribing, and taking more responsibility than our child/ren... for their learning.

Inspiring high achievement is a puzzle—with many, many pieces. An ESSENTIAL piece involves inspiring by MODELING. That is, demonstrating OUR OWN excitement and commitment... to four key achievement-essential values:

- Curiosity
- Willingness to take healthy risks
- Perseverance
- An awareness that paying dues earlier in life leads to more contentment later on

These values are most effectively transmitted when our children overhear us... describing our own real-life experiences. Kids are far more likely to listen when we are talking to someone ELSE... just within earshot. They are also far more likely to internalize these lessons when they see that WE are positive and passionate about our own experiences. SMART STRATEGY: At least once or twice a week, let your kids overhear you sharing a story like the following:

"I've always been so curious about the software that some of the people are using at work. It's actually a bit complicated... I spent most of Monday afternoon trying to get it to work and couldn't. It was so frustrating! It's taken me a week to figure out how to create the spreadsheets the right way, but it seems like I'm starting to get the hang of it. I felt like giving up, but now I see how great it's going to work. That's exciting! I guess it's like everything else... if it's worth doing—and makes life better, it's probably going to be a bit tough in the short term. Again, I've learned to never give up!"

Thanks for Reading!!! ☺

Steve Rubin (“Mr. Steve”)
Eastside School Counselor

sarubin@sunprairieschools.org

© For more practical parenting ideas, check out www.loveandlogic.com

