

Three Ways to Raise *Standout* Young Adults

Want a sure-fire way to raise responsible and resourceful children? Good news: It's not rocket science, and it doesn't require you to be Super-Parent. It requires you to consider only three things.

Cheap Goods and Services: be intentional with your use of these. Efficient is not always best. Give your children things to do that contribute to your family life. It doesn't matter what it is: cutting the grass, emptying the dishwasher, organizing the garage, gardening, making dinner, laundry. Yep, good old-fashioned chores. This is the shortest, surest route to developing a work ethic. So be mindful of your use of the robot vacuum and the Whole Foods fully cooked dinners. It's not that you can't use them. Just make sure there's something left for the kids to do.

Automation and Technology: Limit screen time for everyone! Think for a minute of the numerous things that you do online: banking, , budgeting, insurance, mortgages, shopping, researching, paying bills, investing, grocery shopping, ordering food, equity loans, etc... And then think about what your children are going to need to know

when it's time for them to move out. The list is the essentially one and the same. So take time out to sit your children down with you when you do some of this online life work. Do some explaining. They will be forever grateful when they take their first steps in adulthood.

Beware of New Age Parenting MYTHS

- Parenting is a constant joy.
- Good parents provide constant fun.
- Good parents devote every moment of their free time to their children.
- Good parents send their children to lots of classes that develop skills that will look great on their resumes.
- Good parents prevent failure.
- Good parents frequently intervene on behalf of their children.
- Good parents do not allow suffering.
- Good parents do not abandon children to do things on their own.
- Good parents do not expect their children to make contributions to the household.
- Good parents never allow their children to get hurt.
- Good parents are partners with their children not figures of authority.
- Good parents are always liked by their children.
- Telling children how great they are will make them feel great and actually be great.
- The more you do for your children, the better prepared for their future they are.
- If children put up a big fuss, you must be doing something wrong and should change your parenting choices.

- Children know what's best for them.
- Parents don't have to be the *adults* in the room.
- Consequences are harsh and old-fashioned.
- Engagement in screen time has no negative repercussions.
- If you do it right, your teenagers will be your friends and tell you everything.
- Your child's success is *your* trophy and the only reflection of your own success that really counts.

All you have to do is take every one of these bullet points and turn them upside down.

- *Parenting is NOT constant joy.* Stop looking at looking at Facebook and start looking at families in the grocery store.
- *Good parents SHOULD NOT provide constant fun.* Boredom is the hotbed of creativity and invention.
- *Good parents DO NOT devote every moment of their free time to their children.* Care to work with someone who feels they should be the center of attention at all times?
- *Good parents DO NOT send their children to lots of classes that develop skills that will look great on their resumes.* Just pick a few. Really, it's enough. And loading the schedule doesn't leave any time to get bored or do the chores.
- *Good parents DO NOT prevent failure.* Hoping that your child will grow up to cure cancer? Then she better get comfortable with failure, unless you think she's going to solve it on her first try.

- *Good parents DO NOT frequently intervene on behalf of their children.* If you do, start packing both of your bags for college. Because he's going to need you.
- *Good parents DO allow suffering.* Spoiler alert: Life is full of it. And we can all survive it. Especially if our parents have faith in us to do so early on.
- *Good parents OFTEN LET children to do things on their own.* If you don't then they don't learn to...well...do things on their own.
- *Good parents do not expect their children to make contributions to the household.* Then don't expect them to make contributions to their workplace. Maybe they will, maybe they won't. Best to hedge your bets and get them contributing early and often.
- *Good parents DO allow their children to get hurt.* You have to fall a few times if you want to learn to ride your bike. Period. Full stop.
- *Good parents are NOT partners with their children not figures of authority.* Tell it to the judge. The best thing you can do for your children is to let them feel how benevolent figure of authority operates. It will save them from the bad ones waiting to prey on them later.
- *Good parents are NOT always liked by their children.* If you are, consider it the canary in the coalmine. Time for a wholesale change in parenting.
- *Telling children how great they are will NOT make them feel great nor actually BE great.* No one feels great because of what people say. They feel great, and become great, because on what they do.
- *The more you do for your children, the better prepared for their future they are.* Just reverse that. The LESS you do for your children, the better prepared they are for their futures.

- *If children put up a big fuss, you must be doing something wrong and should change your parenting choices. Again just turn that on its head. You are probably doing something **RIGHT**: setting limits, expecting appropriate behavior, require contributions to the household.*
- *Children **DO NOT** know what's best for them. Haven't we all read *Lord of the Flies*? Ask Piggy how that turned out.*

Great parenting is right at your fingertips and well within your grasp. Go for it!