

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS IN RAISING KIDS TODAY

1. Instill Life's Purpose in Each Child.

Life is a series of problem-solving opportunities. We are children of God sent here to experience earth's school. When we "get it right" and learn to live as God wants us to live, we'll return to God and be rewarded for our accomplishments (and have a wonderful life here on earth in the interim period).

2. Establish Family Sovereignty, Parental Authority.

All authority emanates from God. Children are in need of God's care and guidance so He gives them parents to tend to the day-to-day duties of teaching them how to live. The Family is in charge. Family law is absolute. Parental decisions are final.

3. Teach and Practice Living According to the Ten Commandments.

God gave us the roadmap for success in this life. So, follow the map. Instruct your family based on the assumption that God is right, a moral reality exists, that it makes good sense to live a moral life.

4. Set High Standards of Behavior.

Expect the best and don't settle for less. Espouse the "try and try again" philosophy. Always strive for excellence. Always aim for the stars. Never be satisfied with mediocrity. Never subsidize weakness.

5. Lead, Don't Follow.

Aspire to higher Family Standards than are acceptable to others. Each family member should behave morally, even if the laws of man permit otherwise. Take the high road to success in life; don't wallow in the mud with the masses who are easily influenced by others. Teach children to think for themselves and live with the results of their decisions.

6. Honor Thy Mother.

Mothers give up their lives for their children, every day, 24 hours a day, from before the child is born to the day of their death. Children must recognize this, be thankful, show their gratitude and honor their mother.

7. Establish Family Functions / Spend Time Together.

Do things together regularly including meals, school homework, reading, letter writing, household chores, games, singing, attending church, movies, a day at the beach / park / lake, vacations, sports. Invite your children's friends to be part of your Family Functions.

8. Set Aside Times to Enjoy Family Pursuits Together.

Honoring birthdays, holiday gatherings at Christmas / Easter / 4th of July / Thanksgiving, special events at school, graduations, weddings, promotions, homecomings, visits by relatives and friends.

9. Select Schools for the Children Which are Genuine Extensions of Your Family; Which Share Your Family's Religious Faith; and Philosophy of Life.

Pay "Whatever the Price" to obtain the correct help available in instructing your children how to live their lives. Investigate the school's philosophy. Make certain the children know you've given their teachers your authority over them while at school; participate in all school functions; support the teachers' efforts and support your children's efforts. Clear the path toward excellence by guiding the children and limiting distractions; encouraging healthy competition, team sports and group activities. Retain ultimate authority unto yourself.

10. Elevate Family Success Above Money, Power and Material Goods.

Celebrate family achievements and those of each family member. Be proud of yourself, your spouse, your family and your children. Tell your children how proud you are of the results they've obtained, the progress they are making, the goals they've set for themselves. Genuinely enjoy the success your children achieve and let them know how happy you are for them.

11. Protect Your Family.

Do "Whatever it Takes" to protect your family from forces out to destroy it, humiliate its members, denigrate its accomplishments. Acknowledge the enemy's existence, strategize how to conquer the enemy, stand together in opposition to the enemy and fight to your dying breath in routing that enemy from your presence. Be prepared at all times to combat those things which negatively influence your children. Be willing to exhaust yourself on the field of battle with the certain knowledge that God and His / Her hosts of Angels and Saints stand at your side every bloody step of the way. And you will defeat your enemies, now, and forever.

12. Love Your Family and Each Member Fully, Individually.

Spend time, as parents, with each child, with each other. Talk to them, listen to them, live your life with them at the center, love them above yourself. Tell them you love them. Demonstrate your love by your actions. Let them go when they are ready to leave and take on life alone...and start their own Families.

Author's Comment:

The above was set forth at the urging of one of our 4 children back in 1995. It was reviewed and left unedited in the year 2005. The children raised in accordance with the above recipe have far and away already exceeded the expectations and accomplishments of their parents who are themselves still married to each other after 44 years. The children's accomplishments are too numerous to enumerate fully but include the following across the board:

- Zero problems with alcohol, tobacco, drugs, premarital pregnancies, gang involvement, jail time or serious physical or attitudinal injury due to foolish decision-making.
- Zero behavioral problems at school.
- Zero anti-social behavior away from school.
- All possess a university degree having acquired 6 among the 4 of them.
- Each self-financed the pursuit of the 4 year degree partially and post-graduate degrees totally.
- Display a strong work ethic and a strong desire for task completion.

- Consistently display a high sense of personal integrity.
- Exhibit superior oral and written command of the English language.
- Exhibit strong platform speaking skills.
- Enjoy debate and normally win over the majority to the position taken in same.
- Exhibit superior analytical decision-making capabilities.
- Possess a high degree of self-discipline and self-confidence.
- Not easily impressed by the attitudes and opinions of others.
- Exhibit strong forward planning skills.
- Are easily able to organize unstructured situations creating order out of chaos.
- Possess A/ B type personalities and strong leadership skills.
- Are at ease in any setting...among the downtrodden or amidst the rich & powerful.
- Display equal effectiveness in salary-based employment situations and in entrepreneurial pursuits.
- Excel in their income-producing endeavors.
- Are conservative in money matters, yet generous in their offerings to others.
- Enjoy lasting friendships.
- Believe in a self-determined future.
- Accept total responsibility for the results of their decisions.
- Value their freedoms above all else and relish the multitude of choices at their disposal.
- Are physically fit, mentally adept and wizened at a young age.
- The three that are married made wise spousal choices, have lasting marriages, excel in their roles as parents and produced to date 5 grandsons who are being raised in accordance with the above recipe after each head of household tweaked it a bit adding personal improvements applicable to the new family being constructed.
- Each continues to honor his / her mother in a multitude of ways all year, every year; takes pride in the achievements of each other; looks out for both of their parents; and exhibits a strong sense of gratitude for having been raised in accordance with the above stated recipe for success.

Rather than reveal the names and contact information for the above mentioned individuals who certainly do not wish to be pestered with questions and held up for unwanted attention, it is suggested that the reader think about the ingredients enumerated in the recipe above; perhaps interview or conduct a survey among families personally known to display similar attributes; read the thoughts of and conclusions arrived at by others who have studied this subject; then whip together your very own "Recipe for Success in Raising Kids Today". Thereafter, seek out a spousal candidate who agrees with your precepts. Do all of that, then get married, start having & raising your children in step with your recipe. It is predicted that you will become one of the very few (perhaps one out of ten thousand in this country) who produce the best behaved, most skilled and highly accomplished children / teenagers / young adults / tax paying citizens in the nation who live life to the fullest, enjoy great personal & financial success and who are just naturally going to repeat the process before your supremely satisfied and grateful senior citizen eyes.

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