



How to Develop a Work Ethic

Lesson Content

A common question from parents is: What do I have to do to get my kids to work harder so they will hit their goals? Work ethic is an internal drive, not an external pressure. Our children learn it one of two ways:

Witnessing it in the lives of credible role models and wanting to emulate them, so the effort they put out matches an identity they aspire to be; They're trying to be like someone.

OR,

They are driven by a passion for something – a love or desire – for which they will make any sacrifice to achieve it; They're trying to **have** something, or prove something for themselves.

In the first case, parents who model the way will increase the chances of growing a strong work ethic in their child. In the second case, parents increase the chances for success by providing lots of opportunities for a child to discover their passion, and then stay out of their way, patiently waiting for a strong work ethic to be manifested....or not.

Parents who do both of these things are usually pleased to see the desired results. Parents who coerce and nag their children will make themselves and their children miserable, thereby damaging the relationship in the process.

The strategy that locks in the desired results is catching kids working hard and shining a light on that behavior so as to reinforce it in a positive way. Recognizing, acknowledging, and praising hard work is one of the best ways to insure more of it.



INSTRUCTIONS:

Discuss the questions on page two of the handout following the video.



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Discussion Guide

1

What stories can you tell your children about what you've learned about hard work and results?

2

What additional opportunities would be appropriate to give your children at this time so they can identify their natural passions?