



Raising Champion Children

From the desk of Willie Jolley...

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My youth was filled with many jobs. From paper boy serving a 4:00am morning paper route, to shoveling snow, to moving boxes at a government warehouse, to moving reel to reel tapes for WDCA-TV.

After college, I sang in nightclubs. Singing in dark, smoke filled places where most folks were too drunk to know what I sang! Moving into my passion to mix music with motivation, I encountered tough, inner city schools, as I began to speak.

I've had many challenging jobs, but nothing harder than parenting!

My previous jobs typically provided a guide, some general instructions or even a training manual; but children don't come with a training manual. So we must seek counsel from wise teachers!

Ephesians 4:6 says, "don't provoke your children to wrath! (NKJV) The Message Bible interpretation says, "Don't exasperate your children by being overly hard on them, but lead them by the hand and lead them in the way of the master!" Champion children are not perfect children! They are children who are empowered to excellence by their parents, who possess an attitude of excellence!

10 Tips To Raising Champion Children

1. **Commit.** Decide to get better! (If you want better children, you must become a better parent!) Work on being a better person and a better parent everyday!
2. **Mentor.** Pour into your children. Teach them, give them life lessons (use stories) and information for being effective leaders all the time!
3. **Model.** Be who you want your children to become! Before you can teach you must know; and before you can lead you must go!
4. **Motivate.** What you say and how you say it has long term impact on your children:

Use correction time as a moment to instruct, encourage and motivate them. When they "misbehave," you should not say "you're stupid" but rather, "I'm disappointed that someone as bright as you would make that choice. You are better than that!" Empower them with your words.

Boast on your children, so they can hear your excitement for them! Be proud and let them know publicly how you feel.

Use motivational books, CDs and DVDs as resources to encourage your children to grow. Their

10 Tips To Create Champion Children

inputs determine their outputs. Sometimes it comes from someone else who says what you say, but with a different voice. It is called “The stranger from afar phenomena!”

5. **Dream.** Give them roots and give them wings! Roots are your bedrock values. If you don't give them your values, the world is happy to accommodate! Then encourage your children to dream big dreams. People with dreams live longer, and live better! Beyonce's dad said, “I helped my daughter dream and worked to help her live her dreams. If she had wanted to be a doctor, I would have worked to buy her a hospital!”
6. **Discipline.** Teach them personal discipline. Give them the tools for disciplining themselves! Ask these 4 questions. What is the best that can happen? What is the worst that can happen? What is most likely to happen? Are you willing to live with the worst to get to be best?
7. **Determination.** A bank president was asked the secret to success. He said, “Make good choices.” Then he was asked how to make good choices. He responded, “By experience!” And how do you get experience? He responded, “By making a lot of bad choices, and learning from them!” The secret to success is making good choices. Success for young people is letting them grow and not doing everything for them! Let your children struggle and they will grow
8. **Listen.** Remain silent while they talk. Don't edit their conversation. Even when you don't agree... listen and come back later with instruction and stories to influence them to think differently. If you do not listen and allow them to talk, you will never know what they are really thinking!
9. **Learn.** There were only four TV channels to view when I was growing up. Now we have over 500! Learn about what your children are viewing and listening to; from social networks like Facebook and Twitter, to the Internet in general. Learn! Learn! Learn! You have about 4 hours per average school day with your children. Their friends have about seven! Make the most of your time by listening, talking.
10. **Love.** Love your children to life! Share with them your expectations and your high standards. Never lower your standards to appease them. Rather, help them raise their performance to your level! Help them to grow their thinking, as they grow up!

-Willie Jolley