

G/T Parent Resources: Encouraging Children to Excel

Articles

"How Not to Talk to Your Kids: The Inverse Power of Praise" by Po Bronson, *New York Magazine*, Feb 19, 2007. <http://nymag.com/news/features/27840/index4.html>. This excellent article summarizes Carol Dweck's research on the importance of emphasizing effort rather than ability in encouraging achievement. Appropriate for both educators and parents.

"Is it Smart to Pay for Good Grades?" by Liz Pulliam Weston, *MSN Money*, posted online Jan. 14, 2008. <http://articles.moneycentral.msn.com/CollegeAndFamily/RaiseKids/IsItSmartToPayForGoodGrades.aspx> Weston, a personal-finance writer, discusses the idea that compensation seems to motivate some kids, but experts say it may send the wrong message -- and that praise and encouragement are just as important.

"Learning to Lie," by Po Bronson, *New York Magazine*, Feb. 10, 2008. <http://nymag.com/news/features/43893/index4.html> In this article, Bronson looks at research about why kids of all ages lie and what parents can do to encourage truth telling. Excellent article for helping parents and teachers better understand the thinking behind children's 'coverup' patterns.

"My Glorious Defeat" by John August, *MSN Men's Health*, posted online Oct 10, 2007. <http://men.msn.com/articlemh.aspx?cp-documentid=5476743&page=1>. Another excellent (and short) article for teachers, parents, and students to use in discussing failure and success. Print a hard copy to use with students, since other articles on the men's health site may not be appropriate for students.

"Parenting Achievement-Oriented Children" by Del Siegle, *Parenting for High Potential*, December 2000. Entire text available online at http://www.gt-cybersource.org/Record.aspx?NavID=2_0&rid=11250, Davison Institute for Talent Development/Young Scholars Seminar. This article outlines strategies that parents can use to encourage their children to succeed. The article argues support and encouragement go a long way in validating a child and giving them the desire to achieve their fullest potential. The author also offers a handful of additional resources for parents.

"Patriots Fans Look for Lesson in Painful Loss," by Jenna Russell, *The Boston Globe*, Feb. 5, 2008. Available online at http://www.boston.com/sports/football/patriots/articles/2008/02/05/patriots_fans_look_for_lesson_in_painful_loss/. Great article for talking with kids about disappointment and defeat. Russell points out lessons learned from the Patriot's SuperBowl loss in sportsmanship, perfection, and the value of working hard to achieve goals.

"Promoting a Positive Achievement Attitude with Gifted and Talented Students," by Del Siegle & D. Betty McCoach. Entire text available online at http://www.gt-cybersource.org/Record.aspx?NavID=2_0&rid=10599, Davison Institute for Talent Development/Young Scholars Seminar. This book chapter by Del Siegle and D. Betsy McCoach discusses techniques that can be used to promote achievement in highly intelligent students. Underachievement issues and causes are listed and traits of achievers are explained. Teachers and parents can help children achieve by using the interventions listed in this chapter. Siegle & McCoach have included a very comprehensive resource list at the end of this article.

"Tips for Parents: Parenting for High Achievement and Avoiding Underachievement," Dr. Sylvia Rimm, Source: Davidson Young Scholar Seminar. Entire text available online at http://www.gt-cybersource.org/Record.aspx?NavID=2_0&rid=13656. Dr. Sylvia Rimm lists seven specific tips for parents, and offers an explanation of each tip listed. Rimm touches on topics such as Foresight, Praise, Power, United Parenting, and Twice Exceptional Children.

"Tips for Parents: What You Can do to Reverse Underachievement in the Classroom," by Del Siegle & D. Betty McCoach. Entire text available online at http://www.gt-cybersource.org/Record.aspx?NavID=2_0&rid=13069, Davison Institute for Talent Development/Young Scholars Seminar (2003). This full text article is a summary of tips and strategies on helping underachieving students to become achievement-oriented individuals. The authors include a discussion of the psychology and rationale for each tip. Although written for

parents of profoundly gifted students, the strategies apply to all students at risk of underachievement.

Books

- Carolyn Coil. *Motivating Underachievers: 220 Strategies for Success*. Pieces of Learning, Marion, IL (2001). ISBN 1-880505-95-9. \$16.95 www.piecesoflearning.com
- Encouraging Achievement*. Pieces of Learning, Marion, IL (1999). ISBN 1-880505-49-5. \$19.95. www.piecesoflearning.com
- Diane Heacox. *Up from Underachievement*. Free Spirit Publishing, Minneapolis, MN (1991). ISBN 0-915793-35-0. \$16.95. www.freespirit.com Written to involve teachers, parents and students, this book describes a step-by-step program for intervening with underachievement and promoting success.
- Dorothy Rich. *MegaSkills: How Families Can Help Children Succeed in School and Beyond*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston (1988). ISBN 0-395-46848-5 (hardback); ISBN 0-395-46849-3 (paperback). Out of print but very inexpensive used copies are available on www.amazon.com.
- Dr. Sylvia Rimm. *How to Parent So Children Will Learn*. Three Rivers Press, New York (1996). ISBN 0-6-9-80121-X. \$14.00
- *Why bright kids get poor grades and what you can do about it*. New York: Three Rivers Press (1995). ISBN 0-517-88687-1. \$15.00

Student Resources

- Carolyn Coil. *Becoming an achiever: A student guide*. Student workbook, grades 4+. Pieces of Learning (2004). ISBN 1-931334-57-9. \$16.95 www.piecesoflearning.com
- Meet the Robinsons*. Walt Disney Pictures. ISBN 0-7888-7239-7. Value of persistence and working toward goals.
- The Incredibles*. Disney/Pixar Films. ISBN 0-7888-5521-2. Great story for discussing individual gifts and the power of working as a team.

Web Resources

Suggested searches for the following sites: underachievement, motivation

- 40 Developmental Assets www.assetsconnect.org
- Davidson Institute's GT-Cybersource, Davison Institute for Talent Development/Young Scholars Seminar <http://www.gt-cybersource.org/>
- Free Spirit Publishing www.freespirit.com Excellent resources for parents and teachers on school success, organization, study skills, avoiding procrastination (see "Teacher resources & student success" and "Emotional learning & personal growth").
- Habits of Mind www.habits-of-mind.net
- Hoagies' Gifted Education <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>
- Prufrock Press http://www.prufrock.com/client/client_pages/GCT_articles/Gifted_Underachievement.cfm
- The Association for the Education of Gifted Underachieving Students <http://www.aegus1.org/>
- The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, University of Connecticut <http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html>