

# Teach Your Child the “Success Secret” of Hard Work

Effort, not just ability, is the key to success. Too many students believe that only smart children will do well in school. This is not true. Anyone can succeed...if they are willing to put in the work.

## **Plan, Do, Finish**

Some children are naturally organized. They not only finish the report on time, they also make sure it has an illustrated cover.

But most kids need a little help from their parents. Teaching your child to “plan, do and finish” can help your child become more organized.

Step one: Plan. Although planning may seem like a waste of time, it can actually save time. Teach your child, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

Step two: Do. The athletic shoe commercials have it right. It is important to just do it. All the planning in the world doesn’t take the place of sitting down and attacking a job. So, after planning, the next step is doing. If your child is working on a large project—for example, a history report—he/she should make some progress toward the set goal every day.

Step three: Finish. Dishes aren’t finished until they are put away. A report isn’t finished until it’s neatly copied. Make sure your child knows that it’s often those last few minutes of effort that make the difference between an “A” and a “B.”

## **Studying a Musical Instrument May Help**

Studying an instrument can be one of the best ways for your child to see the value of hard work.

At first, your child may know nothing about playing an instrument. Your child may not be able to read notes. He/She may make only a few sounds. But, by sticking with it and practicing regularly, he/she will soon be making music.

This is a lesson your child can transfer to other subjects. If your child works hard and studies every day, your child can master even tough material.

## **Ability Alone Just Isn’t Enough**

Every day teachers see talented students who do poorly in school because they just don’t try. As parents, we also know gifted people who are failures in life despite their abilities.

It is harder to find examples of people who apply themselves, work hard—and still fail. If we have to choose, simple hard work will beat simple ability every time.

Happily, we don't have to choose. Every student has some abilities, strengths or special talents. We can teach our children that the real success secret is developing the unique abilities we each have—through hard work.