



The Catalyst™

Catalyst - noun - pronounced (kat-l-ist):
A person or thing that precipitates an event or change.

David's Monthly Inspirational Newsletter

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You CAN Make A Difference™

www.DavidLarrickSmith.com

"...you just wait until you have kids!" - Part 2

Thank you all for your input and feedback regarding last month's topic. I have included a couple of your comments in this month's issue. Thanks again for your subscription and your contribution.

"Hi David,

I love reading you monthly newsletters, but this one in particular was enjoyable. Enjoyable because I know that putting your family first is key. As you know I am a single mom and just sent my Chelsea to UT-Austin and Madison also knows that she is going to college and it's just a matter of which one and not "if" she's going. I've raised my girls to be kind and productive young ladies and to always respect themselves and others. I am very proud of my daughters. One thing that I found that helped tremendously was not falling into the "materialistic world". Chelsea received her first cell phone on her 16th birthday, and was not allowed to put on make-up until her 15th birthday. They do not have "game boys" and X Boxes, etc. Did I get the "mean mom" look - yes I did, plenty of times - and still do. But I am o.k. with that. I'm sure there were times that they downright hated me, but I was o.k. with that, and now I am finally seeing the results of the discipline. Everything has its time and place and needs to happen in an age-appropriate time. The parents today are afraid to say "no" to their kids. The kids run the household not the parents. Not in my home - I am CEO of my home and my kids are better off that way. Thanks for letting me share. It's nice to hear that someone thinks the way I do...Hugs to you and yours Dave, Take care!" - Tina Acosta

"In 24 days [or less] I will witness another one of my children being born. This article really sheds light on what my role will be in her life. I look around & see what you are speaking of. Kids running wild in a store, yelling, throwing fits, & so forth. I THINK ours tried that once but we nipped it in the bud right away. Great article!!!" - James Cerny

Who is responsible for the environment your children grow up in during those first 12-18 months? I propose it is the parents. Science (pediatrics, psychology, and sociology) believes that children develop cognitive reasoning (the ability to make decisions) somewhere around the ages of 12-18 months. That means until that time, a child's behavior is not predicated on knowledge of circumstance or by making decisions, rather babies are motivated by sheer impulse and feeling. This should not be confused with instinct. Consider this, what are the first words the average child learns to speak? It's usually: no, don't, stop, quit, damn it, and a few others choice words I dare not mention. Children learn these words first because parents unwittingly teach limitations in an effort to keep their children safe and out of trouble. They also use these word because raising a child is a 24/7 job in the developmental years and it is utterly exhausting. Unfortunately most people are unconsciously incompetent regarding Universal Law and personal development information, therefore they cannot accurately apply better tactics that reduce the negative habit patterns that inevitably accompany traditional child rearing.

Common Mistake #1 - Parents Don't Teach Home-training

The solutions for the ills of a society will always start at home because that is where we learn to value and love ourselves. My parents taught my siblings and I home-training at a very young age. Home-training is just that, training on how to behave that is taught and enforced at home. It is equivalent to manners, etiquette, or civics. I had no fear of the police or outside authorities; behavioral problems in our house never got that far. Home-training is a philosophy that instills a set of principles that governs the behavior of an individual in a collective. It teaches self respect, restraint, work ethic, and appropriate behavior for specific places. There are a lot of reasons why this has fallen through the cracks regarding child rearing, but regardless of all those reasons, home-training is still at the heart of the solution.

Common Mistake #2 - Low Expectations

A generation ago, parents expected the best from, not only their own children, but the children in their community as well. Parents/adults today simply don't expect the best of children, and when we see children acting out in public we don't make a point to correct the behavior. Along with making excuses for their kids mediocrity and poor behavior, most parents simply don't expect great things from their children. As a teenager, I was not a great student. I struggled with many of my classes, and probably had ADHD or some learning issue that actually has a label today. The difference between then and now is: my Momma did not allow me to bring home mediocre results because she knew that I was a smart kid, and that I could learn anything that I set my mind to. She expected more! She would say: "If you can learn those rap lyrics, you can get your book lesson!" When we begin to expect the best from our children and the people who look up to us, we will see marked improvement in the behavior and performance of those people.

Common Mistake #3 - No Work Ethic

My Momma would frequently say: "Money doesn't grow on trees!" One of her core teaching was work ethic. We had to earn everything. A wonderful by-product of work ethic is a deep sense of appreciation - a lesson parents of today need to internalize. Contemporary parents have created the entitlement generation by not instilling work ethic and the lesson of earning like our parents taught us. It's really not completely our kids fault that they are so lazy and unappreciative. Most kids today have never had to work or earn anything. I've had parents use the excuse of: "I want to give my kids the things I didn't have growing up." The problem with that philosophy is that a sense of entitlement vs. a sense of responsibility is created. I think parents should give their children the opportunity to earn all the things they didn't have when they were growing up. If parents today did that, the issue of unappreciative kids would not be so pervasive, and parents wouldn't have to ponder why their kids are so lazy.

Obviously there are no guaranteed methodologies for raising children, but there are plenty of very clear ways to make a mess when doing so. I might not always know what works, but I know a lot about what does not work. Make sure you don't make those mistakes. I suggest that we all start by not making the common mistakes.

Until Next Month

Remember...You CAN Make A Difference!™

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