



Teach Your Children Well

by Madeline Levine



A long overdue topic! Levine asks success driven parents to re-examine "authentic success." She says as a society we are to narrow in our perspective of success and we try too hard to protect our children from failure. The cost, she writes, is endless, unrealistic and a setup for our kids to fall like a house of cards.

Levine makes an interesting point that if parents want to reinforce success they need to teach children life skills such as resourcefulness, problem-solving and self-soothing. Excellent read for parents ready for a change in perspective.

~ **Diane Light-Spiro**



Love this book, as it creates an expanded dialogue on parenting and children's success. She states, "While you think you're giving your kids everything, they often think you are bored, pushy and oblivious to their real needs." Parents may be well-intentioned, but often that does not correlate to children's success outcomes. The discussion reminds me of the film we brought to the area titled "A Race to Nowhere" in how the race to do more and get into the "best" schools, etc., was making our children anxious, depressed and exhausted.

Having had the experience of my own daughter in a private school, I watched many parents needing to compete through their kids and driving their lives, which robs their children of a sense of self-reliance and independence. I am guilty of overdoing in my closeness with my daughter, and have delighted in seeing that her life skills, that really are the most indicative of lifelong happiness and success, are serving her well now in college.

Levine is clear that kids can benefit from learning and scholarship but also need resourcefulness (self-soothing, solutions outside their comfort zone, and problem-solving); enthusiasm (defined out of their own interests); creativity (some kids are not cut out for the dean's list — they can succeed in creative nontraditional ways); a strong work ethic (collaboration, integrity and good communication); and self-efficacy (the real belief that one has a measure of control over what one does in his life). ~ **Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega**



This book really speaks to me not only in my work with teens and families, but also as a mother of a 5-year-old. In both experiences, I can relate for a push for our children's success and how other parents do the same. I like how Levine breaks down the life skills we should focus on in raising our children. What I have found in life and in raising a child is that our best intentions don't always create or give our best experiences. I would recommend this book. ~ **Dianna Chillo**