

Raising An Independent Learner

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Remember...

- Kids Learn Best When They Take Responsibility For Their Learning.



Babies and Toddlers

- Gift of curiosity
- Natural explorers
- Inquisitive
- Independent

Traditional Setting

- Teacher makes all the decisions
- Kids lose their motivation and curiosity
- Become sullen and dependent
- Take a trip through the halls of your local elementary, middle school and high school

At Home

- Tempted to repeat this model
- Powerful image in our mind
- Feels legitimate
- *Not* based upon how kids learn best

Strategies That Encourage Independence:

- Give kids responsibility incrementally.
 - Time management
 - Subjects of study
 - Curriculum choices



- Teach your child to ask questions

Strategies That Encourage Independence:

- Allow your children to initiate projects and writings of their own choosing.
 - Learn to facilitate, not dictate
 - Give them the tools and guidelines necessary.
 - Assist them in accomplishing their goals.

Strategies That Encourage Independence

- Do not start a subject of study or project until your child is ready to do the majority of the work.
- Focus on developing skills needed to learn independently.

Skills For Independence

- Research skills
- Library skills
- Internet skills
- Find an expert
- Projects, papers and performances

Strategies That Encourage Independence

- Use discovery learning
- Give kids time they need to discover underlying concepts and make connections.
 - This gives them a sense of ownership and success.
 - We give time to areas where we feel successful.

Strategies That Encourage Independence

- Give your child opportunities to teach.
 - In any learning situation it is *the teacher* who learns the most.
- Model independent learning yourself.