

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

INCREASING SUCCESS

Success is generally measured in terms of achievement, including a child's success in school. Academic achievement provides the measuring device for school success. Achievement in physical, social, and emotional growth rounds out a child's overall success measurement.

A child's overall success can be increased by improving basic qualities that make a successful person. Parents can work with children in the home to increase their level of:

RESPONSIBILITY - Help children learn to be responsible for their own actions and do what is right.

CONFIDENCE - Instill in children the feeling that they are able to succeed and meet life's challenges.

MOTIVATION - Work to motivate children to do their best and have a desire to succeed.

CARING - Demonstrate to children that it is important to show concern for others and help others.

EFFORT - Teach children that it pays off to do their best and work hard.

PROBLEMSOLVING - Practice decision-making with children, learning to solve problems based on previous experience.

COMMON SENSE - Help children understand that it is important to use good judgement when making decisions.

TEAMWORK - Learning to work well with others is a prerequisite to many school experiences.

DETERMINATION - Teach children the importance of following through and completing what they start.

ACTION - Encourage children to take the initiative and move into action on their own.

SEAT BELTS

When a car must stop or swerve suddenly, unrestrained passengers keep moving at the speed the car was traveling until they hit something. So even when a car is traveling slowly, an adult, or especially a child, will be thrown with a great deal of force. Seat belts and child safety seats can reduce the impact and help save lives and reduce injury.

Parents must be responsible for their own seat belt use as well as that of their children. The habit of wearing a seat belt should be started when a child is an infant. Remember, there should never be any excuses for not wearing a seat belt. Parents often say that a child doesn't like it or won't stay there. That is an excuse, not a reason. There are some things that children just have to learn to live with, and wearing a seat belt is one of them. When parents are consistent and firm about seat belt use children will learn that there are no other options available.

As you have seen on TV and heard on the news, seat belts make a difference. The facts have been proven and include the following:

1. Safety belts cut the number of serious injuries by 45-55 percent.
2. Safety belts cut fatalities by 40-50 percent.
3. Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among people age 1-38.
4. The chance of a person being in an injury producing crash in a lifetime is 85 percent.
5. Three out of four crashes happen within 25 miles of home.
6. Among the causes of death and injury to children in automobiles is being crushed by adults who are not wearing seat belts.
7. Drivers wearing seat belts have more control over their car in an emergency situation and are more likely to avoid an accident.

Safety belts do their job, so buckle up and train children to do the same.

*"When angry, count to 10; when very angry, count to 100."
Thomas Jefferson*