

The Art of Curing Procrastination

It's no secret that kids live in the moment. Their experiences and responsibilities are limited, so consequences and preparing for the future are often difficult concepts to grasp. A child may often take the view that school subjects are useless and torturous, and procrastinate or avoid homework altogether, citing it as boring or using the old favorite, "when am I ever going to need this in life?". Acquainting your child with consequences is an important step toward personal responsibility and the benefits of hard work. We at Bright Future have compiled a few ideas for parents struggling to imbue their children with good habits and positive work ethics.

Create a Homework Chart: A homework chart on a dry-erase board can be a great way to get your child excited about homework. Have your child fill in the chart each day with the day's assignments and grades. For each satisfactory completion, award your child a certain number of points. When he builds up to a certain number, he wins a prize (a day trip somewhere fun, a game, a sleepover, whatever will motivate your child). Your child will come to understand that discipline and hard work yield far better results than laziness.

Give an Earned Allowance: Most kids receive some kind of allowance, but unfortunately, actually earning the money has become far less common. Unearned allowances only strengthen a child's sense of entitlement. Give your child the opportunity to earn money each week, but make sure he or she has actually deserved it.

Discuss Dreams and Aspirations: Open, honest conversations with your child about goals is an important step in helping your child set and fulfill them. Discuss your own aspirations as a child, and how you've achieved successes in your own life. This will help your child understand that this is a process that everyone goes through, and lets him know that he has a support system. Try to tie in how working hard in school helps cultivate tools for success later in life.