

Focusing on Your Child's Strong Points

Every child is a miracle! Each child has special talents and strengths. Like all children, your child is a wonderful, precious human being who has so much to teach and learn and give.

You must guide your children and help them learn from their mistakes. Also very important, you need to focus on their strengths. Make it a point to catch your children being good. Concentrate on the positive. Believe in them. Encourage their talents.

Have you noticed how good it feels when somebody gives you a sincere compliment? Or how nice it is to have someone notice an extra effort that you've made? Children also like positive attention. In fact, they thrive on it. It's one of the ways they learn to feel good about themselves and others.

Children watch you and learn from you. When you focus on their strong points, they learn to see the positive in themselves, in you, and in those around them.

As a parent or other loving adult, you are one of the most important people in your child's world. When you are patient, kind and

positive with your child, it makes a big difference. Never underestimate your influence.

Nourishing your child's strong points is a skill. The more you practice, the more skillful you become. Work with the following "skill builders." Then use your creativity to come up with additional ones designed just for you. Write your new skill builders on the back of this sheet. And put them into action!

◆ *Skill Builders* ◆

- ◆ *Catch the youngsters in your life being good; make a big deal about it. Be sincere.*
- ◆ *Ask your son what he learned in school today. Smile and give him your full attention. Say "Wow!" or "Hey, that's interesting."*
- ◆ *Talk with your daughter as if she were one of the most important people in the whole world. Because she is.*
- ◆ *Focus on what you like about your child, and express your appreciation.*
- ◆ *Think how blessed you are to have these marvelous children in your life. As a way of showing your appreciation, give each of them a hug, a kiss, a wink, or a smile.*

QuickSkills # 3, by Sam Quick, Human Development & Family Relations Specialist. (1997) FAM-QS.103

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