



**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

## **Become dedicated to your child's quest for personal accomplishment.**

What is the difference between achievement and accomplishment?

An achievement is simply an outcome. It is tangible and evident.

Accomplishment implies a lot more. It implies:

- Goal-setting
- A plan of attack
- Persistence
- Overcoming obstacles
- Ability to evaluate
- Refusal to quit

An achievement can occur without any of these elements. An achievement can be the result of natural talent, rather than the development and consistent use of many of the resources God has given a person.

If you truly want to equip your child to be able to face all the challenges life can bring their way, then you want to make sure that your child knows what it is to be able to 'accomplish' something, despite circumstances.

Equipping your child to do this will mean that they will never have to feel hopeless, useless or powerless over their life. Anytime your child wants to take control of a situation, they will have the skills and strategies to do so. They will be able to know that they can rely on themselves to a great extent.

I am not necessarily talking about your child becoming a concert pianist or the youngest child to ever enter university. Accomplishment can come in the simplest form, for all ages of children and stages of their development.

For a 5 year old it can be an accomplishment to be able to tie their own shoelaces. It can be set as a goal. You can show them how (you can include a rhyme or a song like the one by Sponge Bob Square Pants at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9qn2atqL28>). You help them persist. You help them practise and you help them refuse to quit. Let them feel like they are getting closer and closer to their goal and watch them accomplish it.

Sometimes, when we are in a hurry we rob our children of opportunities to feel a sense of accomplishment in everyday activities. Why not recognize this and decide that when we do this to our children we are in fact limiting their opinions of themselves. When we take the shoelaces out of their hands and impatiently say things like, 'See how easy that is!', we just make them feel more useless.

Don't try to have your child become 'accomplished' in too many things at one time. They need to experience the pleasure of accomplishment as well as the process of persisting, practising and overcoming, all of which are really not that much fun.

So help your child set small and realistic goals. Help them work towards them and encourage them. Be patient with them and help them appreciate their own progress.

Talk about the goal. Talk about the progress. Talk about the plan. Help your child adjust the plan to make sure that they can actually achieve their goal. Keep in your mind that it's not about whether they can tie a shoelace or not. It's about whether they feel they are capable of accomplishing goals.

Help your child persist in the face of difficulty. Help them to see that others face hardships and failures and discouragement. Help them to push through that to their goal.

Talk all the time about your pride in their effort. Make sure that they don't lose courage before they can accomplish the goal.

Help them break an accomplishment up into small chunks so that they can celebrate the smaller stepping stones to the larger goal.

Your role is key to their ability to develop these all important skills.

Then when you know that they are not too fragile, and if you want to and if they want to, you can introduce some accomplishments like playing the piano, learning to sing or dance or whatever takes their fancy.

Feeling capable of accomplishment is something that every child deserves. Will you help your child experience a sense of accomplishment even in small tasks? It takes forethought and dedication to do so, but the rewards are evident in your child's sense of personal achievement.

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