



Parents Make a Difference

May's Character Trait: *Hope*

This page includes ideas for building and reinforcing positive character in your child. Parents set the tone and lead by example. Parents *do* make a difference. Take advantage of your influence and spend time with your children talking about the character traits you value and look for in others.

~ **Hope** ~

Believe you will succeed.



Ideas for Teaching **Hope** at Home

- **How can parents help their children have hope in this world?** Let them see their role in creating harmony. Every action is like a pebble tossed into a pond. The ripples radiate out and out, even beyond where we can see. Tell your children that each time they express kindness, work out conflicts, accept differences, they are adding a little more hope to the world.
- Hope happens each time we perform acts of service. Encourage your children to look for ways they can make a difference in the lives of others. Hope is the by-product of service and compassion.
- Ask your children to share what their hopes are for the future. Help them develop a plan for achieving their hopes and dreams.

Teach your children that they can demonstrate hope by:

- ***Having a good attitude and looking for positive things in difficult situations.***
- ***Finding friends that make them feel good about themselves.***
- ***Expecting the best from each day.***
- ***Helping friends and family members find the good in difficult situations.***
- ***Getting involved with activities that make them feel hopeful, such as listening to positive music, and reading uplifting books.***
- ***Setting goals and working to achieve them.***

~from Teaching Character, A. Dotson and K. Dotson

“Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.” ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Character Comments

On Hope

Believe you will succeed

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Hope Despite Disaster

Thomas Edison's laboratory was virtually destroyed by a fire in December, 1914. Although the damage exceeded two million dollars, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof. Much of Edison's life's work went up in flames that December night. At the height of the fire, Edison was seen calmly watching the scene, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank goodness we can start anew."

Just three weeks after the fire, Edison produced his first phonograph.

~From Brian Cavanaugh's *The Sowers Seeds*

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." ~Dale Carnegie

Fear less, hope more;
Whine less, breathe more;
Talk less, say more;
Hate less, love more;
And all good things are yours.
~Swedish Proverb

"Hope is always available to us. When we feel defeated, we need only take a deep breath and say, "Yes," and hope will reappear ~Monroe Forester

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**If we were logical, the future would be bleak indeed.
But we are more than logical.
We are human beings,
and we have faith,
and we have hope. ~Jacques Cousteau**