

A Special Character-Wise Report

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Is My Child Humble Enough?



By Joseph Tan
Good Monday Consulting

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Pride is putting myself on a level of authority where I have the final right to decide what is right and what is wrong. Doesn't this describe the heart's desire of every child? The parent's job is to show the child in no uncertain terms that we are here to polish away the child's pride and fine-tune his character of humility and modesty. It is easy to understand why humility and modesty is important by asking these obvious questions:

- Do you like to work for a boss who is humble & modest or one who is proud?
- Do you like your best friend to be humble & modest or proud & arrogant?
- Do you like to be married to a humble person or a proud one?

Here's the problem: *The child grows up in an environment where he is served right from day one and many parents do not realize this season has an expiry date.*

That is why age-2 has never been called "terrific twos" – rather, it is aptly called "terrible twos". Why? Up till now, this child has been served as the center of the universe and he has gotten used to a life of luxury and unending attention. No wonder, they protest when lessons of humility and obedience is imposed!

Here are three tell-tale signs whether if your child needs a healthy dose of humility:

1. **He does not do any regular household chores.** Does your child treat the house like a hotel (with plenty of room service) rather than a contributing member of the family?
2. **He does not accept defeat graciously.** In life, nobody wins all the time. Life reality is such that success comes sweet to the one who has learnt to overcome failures. We do the child a great disservice by saying "Yes" all the time.
3. **He regularly throws a temper tantrum.** Tantrum and whining is a sign of ungratefulness. Humility is acknowledging that achievement results from the investments of others in my life. Here's the link to a previous report on winning the whining war: http://www.goodmonday.com/uploads/1/0/8/0/10801018/win_the_whining_war.pdf

Here's the acid test of humility – ***the willingness to serve others.***

If your child is so busy with co-curricular activities that he does not have time to do household chores, then you are indirectly developing pride in his life (think about it – most children grow up being chauffeured around!). Personal responsibility and right work attitudes begin at home.

Here are the three needful steps for your child's humility-building class:

1. **Prioritize.** Some activities are driven by a "scared-to-lose" mentality. You must rigorously look for ways to create time for your child's "community service hours".
2. **Demonstrate.** Especially if the child is young, show how the chore is to be done. Set a reasonable standard which is repeatable. This is the beginning of right work ethics.
3. **Reinforce.** Expect that the child will complain or stray. Do not make the mistake of paying for chores because in real life, personal responsibility is expected, not rewarded. Even a 3 year old can be trained to wipe tables or put away his toys.

So, if you have a spoiled child at home, it is time to stop reasoning with him – it will never work! Putting him on a regime of chores and responsibility will build his character and he will thank you for it – later on. Do expect resistance and a myriad of complaints but you remain steadfast because your long term vision for the child is for his character and not just merely academic grades. Think about it.

Interested in to have a character-based parenting workshop for your community or organization? Check out:

<http://www.goodmonday.com/parenting.html>