

Encouragement not Reward – Cut It Out! Allison Rees - lifeseminars.com

Far too often parents and teachers focus on using reward to encourage children. Even though reward and encouragement have a similar friendly tone, they have two different outcomes. A reward is given when the child succeeds, the child then basis his self-worth on being successful. The fear of not succeeding in the future becomes discouraging to the child. If mistakes are criticized and successes are rewarded, you might want to CUT IT OUT! Self-esteem is having the ability to work through mistakes and recover from failure, clearly not the outcome of using reward. Sadly, reward is widely accepted and the negative effects too often go unnoticed. To make matters worse for a child, they often don't know what is expected for them to achieve success. We have to put ourselves in the child's shoes and talk to them at their level of understanding.

Helping children work through the process of learning is called encouragement.

Encouragement:

- Assists a child in developing skills and supports the logical sequence of learning them, which leads to a child's success.
- Is present when a child fails. It involves the ability to see the child as worthwhile regardless of his limitations.
- Helps develop a child's capacity for learning and working toward his full potential.
- Focuses on a child's strengths and abilities in a specific and sincere way without gushing praise.
- Understands the child's frustrations without feeling sorry for him.
- Encouragement recognizes a job well done at the hands of child who is learning.

LIFE Seminars

