Relationship Building Strategies to Help Teens *Soar*

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What I Wish I Knew ^{at} 18

An All-too-Common Story





We Can Help Achieve This!





The Pathway to Destiny





Answering the **BIG 3**

• WHO AM I?

WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER?

WHAT ARE MY OPPORTUNITIES?



Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive that is Youer than You.

~ Dr. Suess

What I Wish I Knew ^{at} 18

Personality Perspectives





Facilitating Self Discovery





Foundational Assets

Physical: strength, speed, agility, dexterity

Mental: aptitude, reasoning, creativity, problem solving, intelligence, subject specific

Spiritual/Inspirational/Values: moral compass, inspirational qualities, faith related

Behavioral: personality, attitude, social skills, motivation, emotional intelligence

Relational Assets

Support System: love, affirmation, guidance, encouragement, security, companionship, and belief from relatives, friends, and mentors

Network: personal and professional ambassadors and advocates

Aspirational Assets

Experiential: formative lessons, credentials, life skills, service, accomplishments

Interests: intellectual pursuits, activities, recreation, hobbies, "free time" areas

Passions/Dreams: goals, causes, purpose, service, career, family, skill pursuits

Unlocking Assets, Revealing Value



But, Certain Things Hold Us Back





Constraints

- "Contra assets"
- Fear of failure
- Lack of self confidence and sense of worth
- Guilt, shame, and discouragement
- Abuse, neglect, unhealthy modeling
- Remember, today's constraint may become tomorrow's inspirational asset!

Mining the Treasure Through a Personal Balance Sheet



http://www.dennistrittin.com/resources/personalbalsheet0714(2).pdf

Personal Balance Sheet

- Facilitates holistic and objective self discovery by identifying assets and constraints
- Helps answer the three big questions
- Provides a game plan for personal growth
- Includes perspectives from self and others
- Inspirational, revelational, relevant and fun!

Creating an Enduring Relationship





Communication Strategies

- Meet them where they are
- More "share with;" less "talk to"
- Honor the *person* more than their *performance* and offer perspectives of their value
- Involve them in your decisions
- Share in humility
- Fully engage (be in the moment)

Recruiting Positive Third Party Voices



College & Career Readiness Affirmation Hope and Belier Life Skills Leadership Wisdom Encouragement Relationship Modeling Commitment Fun



LifeSmart Publishing, LLC Versatile Resources for Families, Educators, and Mentors

What I Wish I Knew at 18: 109 success pointers for teens

Parenting for the Launch: Game plan and strategies to build strong relationships and position teens for life success



A Closer Look at the Book

Comprehensive vision for a successful launch into adulthood
Personal leadership and life skills
Wisdom for key decisions based on the ways of honorable leaders
Conversationally and universally written for young and old alike





Wish I Knew at **1**8

Equipping Parents

Covering the preparation bases
Building leadership qualities
Valuing uniqueness/affirming worth
Empowering communication
Recruiting positive voices
Moving from driver to passenger
Achieving a successful transition



What I Wish I Knew ^{at} 18

Preparing for the Launch and the Workplace



LifeSmart



What Teens Need from Us

- Unconditional love and belief in them
- Encouragement and understanding
- Wisdom and principles for living
- Our perspectives of their uniqueness and value
- Freedom to let them live their dream
- An open door, 24-7
- Realistic expectations, grace, & a long-term view

May They Soar Like Eagles and Fulfill Their Dreams!





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