

Parenting Tips
Trempealeau County Promoting Safe and Stable Families
By
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Teamwork in the Family

“When a parent belittles or attacks any authority such as “the government,” his mate, a minister, policeman, etc., he is undermining his own authority with his children.” Zig Ziglar author of **Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World**, page 149.

It is generally recognized that any unit functions more effectively as a team. And it follows that a team without a coach or leader is most often headed for disaster. The same is true about families. In order to have children develop team skills of communication and cooperation, the family needs a head coach **and** a good assistant is highly desirable. Additionally, the coaches must show respect for authority figures such as law enforcement, school and government officials, and leaders of community organizations.

When a child sees his parents obey and respect a higher authority, the child recognizes that his parents are not hypocritical when they expect respect and obedience in their roles as parents.

To be a united family, the head coach must have the best interests of each family member continually in mind. In addition, the head coach and assistant coach must make contributions beyond bringing in a paycheck. Every member of a family can and must be taught and required to do a part. Also, both coaches need to consult one another on a regular basis and show a united front to the children. If both parents are in the home, they should be involved in meal preparation, home clean up, bedtime rituals, discipline, and all other aspects of child rearing. In a one-parent family, leadership and routine are even more important. This approach helps assure survival of the single parent and teaches responsibility, organization, teamwork, and balancing work and play.

The approach of everyone contributing to the family unit help children learn that before they can be on the receiving end, they have to be on the giving end. The children in these family units also feel like they belong --- a natural need of all children.

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