

## **Teach Your Children Survival Now**

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As an accountable parent it is our ongoing obligation to ensure that our children are suitably equipped to handle any disaster or emergency condition. We austere cannot depend upon Mother Nature or some kind soul to provide for our loved ones when the SHTF. Children are apt to envision situations differently than the majority of adults do. They distinguish issues as occurring now and have no perception of something happening at some later time. This is a crucial example of one significant concept which must be instilled within these young minds prior to an issue taking place.

Think momentarily back to your school years and how you postponed until the final evening the fulfillment of your obligatory term paper assignment. Our youngsters are aligned along identical lines of thought therefore we cannot denounce their actions however we can guide them to properly chart their course of planning accordingly during emergencies and disasters. It is imperative that children be educated in assessing the future and not just the here and now. Our aspirations should be to communicate with them how to achieve this and the potential means for achieving viable result from the tasks before them.

If you are somewhat similar to me this frame of mind of the youngster can become exceedingly frustrating. Here we are experienced preppers and survivalists and thus we naturally assume our offspring to be equivalent. Unfortunately, it fails to work as anticipated. When my grandson was seven years old, I homeschooled him and one of his fields of study involved survival training. I would scan the internet in quest of local types of survival and emergency schooling being presented. I scrutinized any skill sets which were appropriate for his age level. I enrolled him for survival instructions offered at our assorted state parks here in Delaware along with any other offshoot projects which were in the making. Fire making, weapons shooting, shelter building, it mattered not as I would register him for all of the classes. Nevertheless, today he is likely not engrossed in prepping or survival in the least however I did implant the essential background and the fundamental knowledge needed.

To embark upon training your children on the value of being prepared and planning for SHTF times, your initial responsibility will be to make them appreciate how important the task at hand is. We as parents must coach them in preparation towards these threats and above all we must avoid any unnecessary fright anxiety involving them. I occasionally reflect that conceivably those children nurtured in low income neighborhoods will adjust better and have unequalled opportunities to survive the harsh times rather than the child brought up in an easy environment with no cares what so ever. Perhaps we have made it too trouble-free for our children these days and unlike most of us they have not experienced from the school of hard knocks. In these situations, the best that we can do is endeavor to foster an understanding of the gravity of the potential crisis and endow an perceptive of the difficulty ahead of them.

One of the concerns which I have encountered over the years is that children by their nature simply cannot keep secrets. By indicating to a child that it is of great consequence to maintain a secret it is like indicating to them to go and “spread the word to your friends.” One excellent example of this involves weapons. If you maintain a sizeable weapons and ammo cache within your home you should never tell the child to not say anything about its existence but simply train them in the value of these assets and their importance while letting the child decide that it is best not to tell others. If nothing is made of the “secret” it is easier for a child to not say anything, it just comes naturally to them. They may begin believing that everyone does the same thing and therefore it is nothing worth talking about. They must think it is their decision not ours. Additionally, avoid words such as prepping, preppers or survivalist as this could easily slip out of their innocent mouths in conversation with friends. Instead of informing your child that you are teaching them survival and prepping skills, you must do so as if it is a natural part of their life and not classified as a “secret”. You can still teach those attitudes and skill without the use of the “P” word or the “S” word.

I deem retaining a suitable attitude is everything when it comes to prepping and survival skills. This attitude has to be a “Win all or none” type. Having comprehended many military training manuals over my life span and especially during my active duty days I perceived that attitude was the one universal element originating within the pages of every manual. The very first chapters habitually address the issues of attitude. Every survivor needs to cultivate this type of attitude to succeed.

So, the question remains, as to how one acquires this attitude that we have been discussing. Essentially, it is an attitude of never giving up. I struggled to instill in my three boys as they were growing up that they were “Parish’s” and as such they never give up. Quitting was not an option. When in the military, I developed the attitude that “Can’t” is an unacceptable word in my vocabulary. Nothing is beyond accomplishment if you desire it badly enough. Encouraging your children to fashion this style of attitude is vital for them to succeed in prepping and to be a survivalist. This type of mindset will not only be of value in prepping or survival but in any venture that they undertake in their lives. It is an ongoing goal.

Teaching your children survival skills is as painless as tutoring them on how to play a new game for in actuality it is like a game to them. Our best likelihood of teaching these skills are to formulate it in such simple terms that they can execute it with a smile of accomplishment on their faces. Practice over and over. Have unofficial quizzes on the skill involved. Ask questions but don’t be authoritarian in nature. Act like you are their friend and you are curious – nothing more. Don’t pressure the child but permit them to evolve at their specific rate of learning. The options for skill learning are many: you have canning, gardening, making dehydrated foods or even raising livestock, when selecting skills think of surviving disasters as your primary objective. As you drill your children in these skills, be positive in explaining to them why they are important. Have them do the skills in conjunction with you so that both of you can compare notes. Even after the skills

training has been perfected, review it periodically. Even I am inclined to overlook some vital step of a skill if it is not done frequently. Take your child on a trip to the shooting range with you. Take them on fishing and hunting expeditions. Demonstrate how to set traps to catch animals. Teach them skills that they must know. Going camping has traditionally been an excellent way to instruct the young in various survival skills. After all ask any former scout!