

Keys To Success: Reading, Community Service Top The List

(NAPSA)—According to famous child psychiatrist, Fritz Redl, the three most important things parents will ever need to know about raising children are “example, example, example.” Because young children are not born with knowledge or skill, they learn by imitating their parents and friends. Thus, parents play a pivotal role in the shaping of a young person’s character. Their involvement and encouragement can ultimately lead to a child’s success.

Another notable factor in a child’s development is involvement in community service. Volunteering can be an effective way to build character and can also be a terrific learning opportunity. Through community service, young people learn new skills, take on more responsibilities and are exposed to a variety of people and situations outside their current experiences.

When parents demonstrate the value of community service, they not only pass on values and knowledge, they also contribute to their child’s future. Here are a few tips for leading by example.

- **Place reading as a primary family value.** Parents who are directly involved in their kid’s learning by teaching, encouraging and in some cases, forcing their kids to read are doing their child a huge favor. Routine reading can increase vocabulary and expand a child’s creative outlook. For fun ways to get kids excited about reading, visit www.RIF.org.

- **Encourage children to practice goal setting.** By chal-

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lenging kids to stretch their abilities, parents can help develop a path to excellence. Children will also see the benefit of breaking larger tasks into smaller, more achievable parts. Accomplishing these goals and noting the progress can be a motivating experience for children.

- **Demonstrate examples of community service.** Children look up to their parents and role models for guidance. When adults model the example of service and integrity, children are more likely to get involved as well. A variety of volunteer opportunities can be found on www.studentsinservice.toamerica.org and www.ysa.org.

- **Recognize children for their achievements.** Recognition, at all levels, is a great motivational tool. From a special lunch box treat to a notable awards opportunity, such as Nestlé Very Best In Youth, kids will remember and appreciate the acknowledgment of their efforts.

For more information about Nestlé Very Best In Youth, visit www.Nestle-VeryBestInYouth.com. The program honors extraordinary young people for their academic and community accomplishments. Nominations for the 2005 award are being accepted until November 1, 2004.