



TOP TIPS FOR

AIMING HIGH

Working together to help our children succeed!



Encouraging children to aim high and make the most of their capabilities increases their self-confidence and improves their attitude towards learning.

Among the many benefits of supporting children in aiming for future goals is that it pushes the boundaries of their expectations of themselves and their academic achievements.

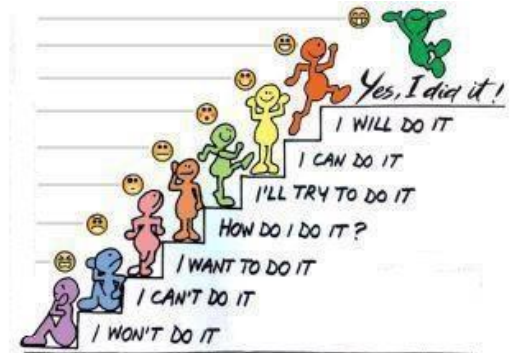
Children who believe that they can achieve whatever they want are more likely to work towards meeting their goals without being discouraged by their lack of knowledge in a subject. They also have the self-esteem to reach for targets that test their capabilities and have the confidence to move outside their comfort zone.

Having aspirations/aiming high helps children give their all. When children have a focus for the future (whether short or long-term) they give their best to each challenge.

SO HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. BELIEVE IN YOUR CHILD

With determination and hard work, they CAN achieve their dreams – don't be negative. Encourage them to aim high and do the very best they can. Teach them that setbacks and failure are part of learning; they need to be resilient.



2. IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

Don't be passive and accept the easiest path. Actively seek out experiences and opportunities that will broaden your child's horizons. Art galleries and museums generally have free admission. There are often free concerts in Trafalgar Square or in and around the National Theatre or Southbank Centre (and fountains to run in and out of, too!) Check out timeout.com/London/findyourfun.

3. ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE

Help your child to develop their strengths. If they are interested in art, visit galleries (the National Gallery has Sunday morning storytelling sessions for under 5s). The Wellcome Trust near Euston station has free science exhibitions and talks. If your child loves dance, look out for free events in Trafalgar Square.



4. BUILD YOUR CHILD'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Help your child to be well-informed. Read or watch the news; talk about what is going on in the world and where. Look at maps and learn about different countries and cultures. Encourage discussion so your child understands that there can be different but valid points of view about a subject – there are seldom simple right or wrong answers.



5. **MEET AND TALK** to as many people as possible about their education, career path, job and hopes for the future. Keep an open mind about careers: many new jobs are being created which were not even dreamed about ten years ago.

6. LISTEN AND LEARN WITH YOUR CHILD

Foster curiosity: instead of saying “I don’t know anything about that”, teach your child to think “I’d like to know about that”.

I HAVE NO SPECIAL
TALENTS. I AM ONLY
**PASSIONATELY
CURIOUS.**
-ALBERT EINSTEIN



7. MANAGE THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

This is a time when your child can feel unsure of how to behave. Encourage good habits from the start, in punctuality, getting organised for school the night before, making sure all homework is done carefully in a quiet, well-ordered atmosphere. Stay interested in your child’s work and friendships so they achieve their full potential.

8. DON'T BE AFRAID OF 'HARD' SUBJECTS

Encourage your child to choose academic subjects like Physics or History, which are more respected than others. Aim high academically. There are scholarships available at top private schools such as Highgate, City of London School (boys and girls), Haberdashers' Aske's (boys and girls) and Forest School. Help is available with tutoring for entrance exams. Ask!



9. GRADUATES HAVE BETTER-PAID AND MORE INTERESTING JOBS

Think about university and talk to your child about it. Look online at the wide range of courses available (www.ucas.com). Open Days allow you to visit universities. Financial aid is on offer. Aim for the best – some universities (eg Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Durham) are more highly-respected than others.



10. LUCK VS HARD WORK?

Successful people say that luck counts for 10%, hard work for 90%. Hard work can be tiring and it takes time, but if you and your child want to aim high, the results will be worth it!

