

# The Truth About Kids

If we really care about kids, if we really want them to succeed, we must demonstrate we care and believe in them. We should believe that kids are powerful, energetic, committed members of society, and how we teach them to know truth, ethics, kindness, and service to others, is their strength as future leaders, and the core of America's future.

We should believe that kids have the power to contribute significantly to communities, to be equal and caring partners, to create positive change, and to imagine new possibilities and directions. As young people learn, building their skills and knowledge, their power increases. Today, as never before, we must all work for the betterment of our community, our country, and our world realizing the success of our youth can have a worldwide impact. Countries, regions and people all over the world are coming closer together through integrated economies, advances in technology, and global communications and marketing. For people and cultures to thrive, the next generation must be prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to build strong economies and with the values and principles necessary to nurture successful societies, communities, and families. Our kids will live in a world in which accepting and living with diversity, understanding the individual's impact on the well-being of others, and sharing the human dream of a better future are not only desirable, but essential.

We know what caring adults can do in the lives of young People. Now, more than ever before, we must make sure all our children are provided equitable access and opportunity to reach their potential. We must be aggressive in reaching our UN-served, under-served, and under-represented children and their families.

We know children are our strength. In fact, attracting, training, supporting, and rewarding our youth is our most important investment. We want kids to flourish, to have a chance to change their lives.

Great institutions and organizations survive because their missions are timeless, ethical, and imperative. Yet while their mission endures, new approaches to achieve the mission require new ways of thinking and working. We need a deeper understanding of how we can be the best.

We stand at the threshold of youth development that will impact our world for centuries. We adults can take the road of least resistances and allow our kids to raise themselves as they wonder into bad choices and habits or we can step up to the task of being an adult who cares about kids and their future, The power to make it happen lives in each of us. Because raising kids begins and thrives in local communities, the plan will, too. Each individual can advance the revolution of caring about the future of kids. Within the framework of the plan, every youth, volunteer, staff and professional faculty can create actions and strategies to turn the revolution into reality.

It is important that adults understand what they believe about kids. Adults should believe that youth are powerful members of society, with the ability to contribute significantly to their communities, to create positive change, and to imagine new possibilities and directions. Adults should believe that youth are equal and caring partners, bringing unique energy, knowledge, and perspective to the work they do – for our children are keepers of the vision.

We should believe that relationships with caring adults are essential for youth to achieve their potential because of the guidance, respect, knowledge, and wisdom adults can share.

We should believe that learning is a lifelong commitment that enhances self-determination, independent thinking, and self-esteem, and that learning-by-doing promotes practical skills, confidence and experience for both youth and adults.

We should believe that a social conscience is built on service and volunteerism, that a commitment to diversity depends on embracing and respecting difference, and that both are essential to making our society a better place.

We should believe that our youth are the future of our nation and our world, and that they deserve nothing less than our best.

Because we believe in these things to be true, we will touch the future through our kids.

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