

As a parent, you want your child to reach the summit of her dreams. You want her to feel completely and totally loved, for her to recognize that her value is based on the fact that she exists-period. You want your child to know she has boundless potential. She can accomplish anything her heart desires. Her life can make a difference. And whatever obstacles she encounters in life, she can overcome. You want a shield to surround and protect her from all harm and for her to have an internal confidence guiding her every decision. At the same time, you want your child to be humble as she admires the great feats of others, compassionate when she sees others struggle, and fearless when she confronts monumental challenges.

How can you build your child's confidence for overcoming obstacles and instill courage to face her fears while developing humility in dealing with others? What can you do to make your child feel the depth of your love and awe?

... Whether it is the day your child pulls out of the driveway to drive on his own or the day he leaves home for the next phase of his life, his success will be in part because of your involvement in his life, your knowing when to step back, and your encouraging him to become a self-reliant, responsible adult. Nurturing, protecting, and guiding are all ways to help him feel safe and loved. Instilling in him the full accountability for his thoughts, feelings, and actions provides him the valuable gift of self-awareness. His ability to take full responsibility for his life and for choices that are right for him can lead to his true joy and happiness. The ultimate goal of parenting is to work yourself right out of a job. It begins with complete involvement, and then gradually, methodically you let go.