

Can You Teach Children Who Don't Want To Be Taught?

Butner, N.C. - Yesterday on the Tom Joyner Morning Show, Comedian Jay Anthony Brown said that "You cannot teach a child who doesn't want to learn." Jay is someone who I strongly admire and respect, but I am going to have to disagree with his statement. First, all children have the potential to learn. Second, all children must be taught to want to learn. And third, all children have a desire to learn - good and bad things.

Children in general have the potential to learn anything. The mere fact that so many children are addicted to video games, computers and TVs is clear evidence of that assertion. For example: when children watch television, specifically music videos, oftentimes they try to emulate the artists and actors that they see. Hollywood has a lot of influence on children, and many kids aspire to be just like their favorite rappers and actors.

It is a proven fact that all children must be taught to want to learn. Malcolm X once said, "Education is the passport to the future. . .the future belongs to those who prepare for it today." Parents must prepare their children for the learning process because that 's just what it is - a process that involve negatives and positives, rights and wrongs, goods and bads, etc. Children need help to develop a burning desire that will ignite them to excel to higher levels.

Furthermore, all children have a natural inclination for learning. They are like sponges waiting to absorb information. That's exactly why most children ask a lot of questions. They are seeking knowledge - they want to learn.

Based on my personal experience in dealing with young adult federal prisoners, I can honestly say that anybody can be taught to learn. I can honestly say that anybody can open up their minds to ascertain information. It is solely up to the educator to make the uneducated want to learn.

So never let it be said that you cannot teach a child who doesn't want to learn. I am living proof because it was said to me and about me more times than I can remember.

Cedric Dean
Reg. No. 11907-058
Federal Correctional Institution 2 - Butner
P.O. Box 1500
Butner, N.C. 27509

Note: I'd love to hear your thoughts on this matter. Feel free to email or write me.