

Ideas for Working Together, Episode 56



Power of Moms
A Gathering Place for Deliberate Mothers

Power of Moms co-founder, April Perry and her husband, Eric Perry, discuss some of their ideas for working as a team when it comes to establishing family values, goals and habits over the summer break. They share how they tailored the “Do It Yourself” Summer Camp Kit to help their family. They emphasized that establishing a family culture is a team effort and they would like to encourage moms and dads to work as a team to actively build their own family culture.

With this discussion, Eric suggests not having the spouse/partner listen to a whole podcast but for you (the mom) to extract the ideas you like best and discuss them together. This creates a simple way for a dad to be involved when he can be.

First, Eric and April discussed the expectations of the summer and what they wanted their kids to learn.

Next, Eric talked to his kids individually about what they wanted to learn and do during the summer. One child didn’t want the whole day structured away by having lots of things to do. With this in mind, April and Eric implemented the Do-It-Yourself Summer Camp Kit ([link](#)) but modified it to fit their family’s needs.

Keep in mind you have to actively build the culture you want in your family. Everyday actions establish that culture so creating those habits and working hard is a constant work in process. When we invest in establishing a positive family culture, children will rise to the occasion and see what they are capable of, especially when they know what it takes to get a “good job” or a “well done” from their parents.

Using this kit, gives the kids the opportunity to make it their own program, allowing the elements to be beneficial without too much structure. Each individual child has their own sheet of paper with their own summer goals and the ideas that they can do to complete their various points. Points can be earned and incentives offered.

The Perry's created a little reward/friendly competition when it came to learning to type, giving the winner a \$10 Target gift card. A point system doesn't have to equate to money, but it can. Maybe have a family incentive; once the family reaches *this many* points we can do *this activity*. Don't always pay for certain activities because the idea is to have them grow in areas that they are interested in.

At the end of the week have a discussion or create space on the sheet on where the child can write "How I grew this week..." All it takes is a simple line next to each category so the child can see how they have grown that week.

Adjust to your schedule including vacations. This program is not about checking every box every day; it's about the progress made through a specific period.

It's a way to avoid the "I'm bored" aspect of summer. Just because your child is out of school doesn't mean your work ends. Parents still have things that they need done during the summer and this program helps keep kids occupied doing productive things, not staring at a screen all day.

This program is also used to help coach and mentor kids to excel in the areas of their interest. Using the sheets provided offers a visual reminder of the progress made through a longer period of time. By working together, April and Eric have created a summer program that helps them build their family culture, and you can create that too!

Transcribed by Rosie Liljenquist