

NEWSLETTER

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"WHAT I WANT FOR MY KIDS--"

It occurred to me that maybe we have it backwards. We ask our kids what they want to be when they grow up. Maybe we should first ask ourselves what we want our kids to become.

I'm not talking about a career or job--that is the decision of the child.

I'm talking about the kind of person we want our child to become.

If I were starting out as a new parent I would want my child to grow up to be KIND. I would hope he or she would care about other people's feelings, would be able to help others, would find ways to meet other people's needs without ignoring the needs of self.

I would want my child to grow up to be RESPONSIBLE. I would want both my sons and daughters to become the sort of people that are believed when they say, "You can count on me!"

I would want the future adult my child will become to be CENTERED. Unfortunately the term "self-centered" means selfish, thinking only of self, putting self first. I am using the word "centered" to mean that my children would become centered within themselves, to know who they are and what they want, to have an understanding of their unique place on this planet, to recognize how brief our stay is on earth.

Each of us might come up with different adjectives. Having a clear picture in our minds of what we want our kids to become might help us better help them on the road to adulthood.