

# “Confidence – Believing in Yourself”

Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do ALL things through Him who gives me strength.” Believing that verse instills confidence that nothing is too hard as long as you trust God!

Right from birth, kids learn new skills at a dizzying rate. And along with those new abilities, they also acquire the confidence to use them. As children get older, that confidence can be as important as the skills themselves. To thrive, kids need to trust in their own capabilities while, at the same time, knowing that they can handle it if they aren’t successful at something. It’s by experiencing mastery and rebounding from failure that they develop healthy self-confidence.

## Here are 12 ways parents can help foster a healthy sense of confidence in their children:

### 1. Model confidence yourself.

Seeing you tackle new tasks with optimism and lots of preparation sets a good example for kids. That doesn’t mean you have to pretend to be perfect. Do acknowledge your anxiety, but don’t focus on it—focus on the positive things you are doing to get ready.

### 2. Don’t get upset about mistakes.

Help kids see that everyone makes mistakes and the important thing is to learn from them, not dwell on them. Confident people don’t let fear of failure get in their way—not because they’re sure they won’t ever fail, but because they know that failures are a part of life.



# “Confidence – Believing in Yourself”

## 3. Encourage them to try new things.

Instead of focusing all their energy on what they already excel at, it’s good for kids to diversify. Attaining new skills makes kids feel capable and confident that they can tackle whatever comes their way.

## 4. Allow kids to fail.

It’s natural to want to protect your child from failure, but trial and error is how kids learn, and falling short of a goal helps kids find out that it’s not fatal. It can also spur kids to greater effort, which will serve them well as adults.

## 5. Praise perseverance.

Learning not to give up at the first frustration or bail after one setback is an important life skill. Confidence and self-esteem are not about succeeding at everything all the time, they’re about being resilient enough to keep trying, and not being distressed if you’re not the best.

## 6. Help kids find their passion.

Exploring their own interests can help kids develop a sense of identity, which is essential to building confidence. Of course, seeing their talents grow will also give a huge boost to their self-esteem.

## 7. Set goals.

Articulating goals, large and small, and achieving them makes kids feel strong. Help your child turn desires and dreams into actionable goals by



# “Confidence – Believing in Yourself”

encouraging them to make a list of things they would like to accomplish. Then, practice breaking down longer-term goals into realistic benchmarks. You’ll be validating their interests and helping her learn the skills needed to attain goals throughout life.

## 8. Celebrate effort

Praising kids for their accomplishments is great, but it’s also important to let them know you’re proud of their efforts regardless of the outcome. It takes hard work to develop new skills, and results aren’t always immediate. Let kids know you value the work they’re doing, whether they’re toddlers building with blocks or teenagers teaching themselves to play the guitar.

## 9. Expect them to pitch in.

They might complain, but kids feel more connected and valued when they’re counted on to do age-appropriate jobs, from picking up toys to doing dishes to picking up younger siblings from a play date. Homework and after-school activities are great, but being needed by your family is invaluable.

## 10. Embrace imperfection.

As grown-ups we know perfection is unrealistic, and it’s important for kids to get that message as early as possible. Help kids see that whether it’s on TV, in a magazine, or on a friend’s social media feed, the idea that others are always happy, successful, and perfectly dressed is a fantasy, and a destructive one. Instead, remind them that being less than perfect is human and totally okay.



# “Confidence – Believing in Yourself”

## 11. Set them up for success.

Challenges are good for kids, but they should also have opportunities where they can be sure to find success. Help your child get involved with activities that make him feel comfortable and confident enough to tackle a bigger challenge.

## 12. Show your love.

Let your child know you love him no matter what. Win or lose the big game, good grades or bad. Even when you're disappointed in their behavior, make sure your child knows that you love them unconditionally. This will bolster self-worth even when they may not be feeling good about themselves.

Once again, helping your child learn not to give up at the first frustration or bail after one setback is an important life skill. Confidence and self-esteem are not about succeeding at everything all the time, but more about being resilient enough to keep trying, keep trusting God, and let Him lead in all you seek to accomplish.



FAMILY MINISTRIES  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

# “Confidence – Believing in Yourself”

## Reference

Child Mind Institute. (2020). 12 Tips for Raising Confident Kids. Downloaded from: <https://childmind.org/article/12-tips-raising-confident-kids/>



**North American Division**  
Family Ministries  
Children's Ministries

9705 Patuxent Woods Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: 443-391-7200  
[www.nadfamily.org](http://www.nadfamily.org)  
[www.childmin.com](http://www.childmin.com)



FAMILY MINISTRIES  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION