

The Art of Persistence

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While many believe that motivation and persistence are linked, there is a clear and concise difference between them. Motivation, in the realm of education is simply the desire to accomplish a given task or goal whereas persistence is the resolve. You can certainly desire to accomplish a given task be it a math problem or improving you free throw percentage but if you don't have the resolve, meaning you are not willing to do whatever it takes to be successful, desire will not have mattered at all.

The art of persistence is an interesting paradigm within the educational sphere and is a critical building block that is laid at an early age by our parents. Persistence has a direct link with time and can have a direct implication to success if there is a lack of it, especially on the home front. Persistence is a learned trait that if mastered early on can prove to be a hallmark in not only our educational life but in other aspects of our life including marriage, family and career. Oftentimes when we are struggling with a given task, it will take time to learn about why we are struggling with it and what we can do to attain ultimate success. Here is where our resolve and the given time that we have to succeed at our task become important. Ultimate success may be measured or determined by the manner in which we are persistent enough to complete the task. Then it stands to reason that to become successful at a certain level, the art of persistence will play a major role in that success.

So where do we learn to be persistent and moreover, give ourselves a better chance at being successful with a given task. In all domains and especially education, persistence is going to be a trait that we witnessed modeled to us, to a given degree, by our parents. From the inception of our lives, we will have watched our parents closely in many of the everyday occurrences of life. Throughout all of these

experiences starting, in our formative years, we watch to see how our parents or siblings deal with many of life's experiences as we travel through our lives. Many of these trials can be harsh and deliver certain setbacks in our daily lives. How our parents and siblings react and resolve these setbacks will become the fabric of how we may react and work through negativities throughout our life. If we see our parents buckle down and do whatever it takes to survive an issue or tragedy, that modeling we see is likely to have a positive impact on us when it is our time to have to fight through an issue. If our parents give up or become distracted with given struggle, then there may be a good chance that when we have a struggle of our own, we may throw in the towel as well.

If we have parents who are encouraging and model the art of persistence regularly, our ability to master a given goal may certainly increase. If our parents work with us through a given issue whether it social studies homework, mastering the fingering on our violin, or simply when we are pulling weeds in the garden, to make sure we pull the weed at its lowest point, this loving resolve and many times, some parental remediation, will help us succeed at varying tasks that are presented to us from birth until death. Parenting practices where persistence is evident may allow for our children to not only work with great resolve but also become more successful at whatever they set their hands to. Parent support from an early age is critical along with clear modeling practices. These attributes of persistence of parents translated to their kids may create a work of art that is a portrait of success, of their family for generations to come.