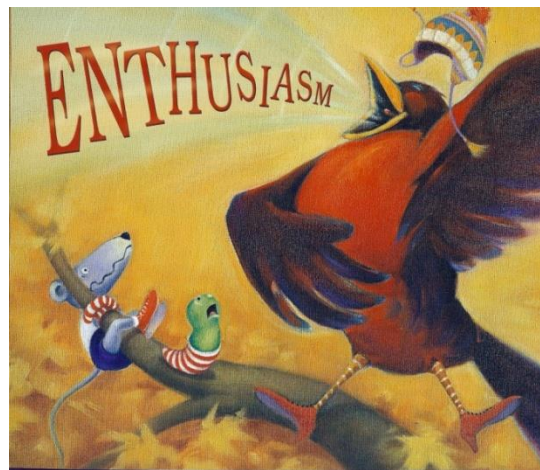


*September Building Blocks:
Hard Work &
Enthusiasm*



*I may be small. That's very true.
But I **SUCCEED**, and so can you.
I move a mountain, bit by bit.
It takes **HARD WORK**-I never sit.
I **WORK** and **WORK** throughout the day.
My **WORK** comes first before I play.
SUCCESS is yours, please understand,
When you and **WORK** go hand and hand.*



*I sing my song with joyful heart.
In your **SUCCESS**, joy plays a part.
ENTHUSIASM in your smile.*

*Combined with work, you'll find worthwhile.
The energy and pep you show
Will rub off on those you know.
Don't make excuses, complain, or whine.
Enjoy your work and **SUCCESS** you'll find.*
*(Excerpts taken from the book,
Inch & Miles: The Journey to Success)*

A Lesson Worth Learning

A college basketball player steps onto the court of his first practice. His heart hammers with nervousness as he's about to meet one of the greatest coaches of all time. His coach blasts his whistle and calls, "Gentlemen, we've got a big day ahead of us." The player's head fills with visions of drills and exercises as his coach continues, "Today we're going to learn how to put on our socks and shoes!"

Coach Wooden was famous for starting with the basics. He liked to start the season teaching his players how to smooth the wrinkles out of their socks so they wouldn't get blisters-because blisters led to benched players, and benched players couldn't help their team. He always said, "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen." So, the players learned to put on their socks, and the lesson must have worked because his teams would go on to break records that other teams haven't been able to match.

Coach Wooden knew that winning is about more than just sinking the most baskets, it's about knowing how to be successful in life. Because, after all, when we take care of the "little" things, the "bigger" things just seem to fall into place.

Coach Wooden taught that it takes hard work in order to succeed, and one way to work hard is to make sure that you are prepared for the job you need to do. It's our children's job to do the best they can as students.

Help your child to work hard by:

- Checking your child's backpack and agenda regularly. Be aware of the tests, projects, and assignments that he or she has coming up.
- Helping your child break large tasks, such as tests and projects, into smaller pieces. Schedule time for your child to work on these tasks little by little.
- Creating a homework schedule. Set a time and place to do homework and consult the agenda for what needs to be done.

A journey is really just a lot of small steps. Start by taking these steps with your family:

1. Help your child create a homework area. It should be a spot that is clear of clutter and free from distractions. Stock this area with extra supplies your child might need when he or she is studying.

2. Remind your child that doing hard work isn't always fun at the time, but the great pay-off comes later. While playing video games might be exciting today, a high score on a test might be even more exciting tomorrow!
3. Give your child chores to complete around the house. Chores help instill a sense of pride, work ethic, and importance.

Source: Premier, a member of the School Specialty Family

“If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?”
~John Wooden~