



May 30, 2007

Parental Wisdom – Emails

Do you want your child to be a plumber or philosopher?

With the carefree days of summer approaching, we have a great opportunity to help our children figure out what they might want to be when they grow up. It doesn't matter how young they are, exploring possibilities is always a good idea.

There are a number of reasons it makes sense to investigate careers early:

- Children that see a potentially bright future are less likely to follow bad influences because they realize mistakes could jeopardize their future.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

Explore...Dream...Discover. -Mark Twain

- It gives parents a way to build relationships with children, which puts both in a "learning mode" since neither may be an expert in a new field.

I am still learning. - Michelangelo's motto

- Discovery is as much about figuring out what you don't want to do. How frustrating it must be to get accepted to medical school only to learn that you faint at the sight of blood.

It's not your blue blood, your pedigree or your college degree.

It's what you do with your life that counts. - Millard Fuller

- We can't live vicariously through our children. It is their career, not ours. All the great commencement speeches talk about doing something you are passionate about. Help your children to find out what that means to them.

An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society, which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor theories will hold water. -John Gardner