

"Outcomes-based parenting" - the future of child care?

by Crispin Sartwell

As we raise our children, we must always keep in mind our goal: achieving excellence in the global economy of the twenty-first century. There is a reason that political, business, and educational leaders, like wind-up dolls, keep repeating this phrase: "global economy of the twenty-first century; global economy of the twenty-first century; global economy of the twenty-first century." The reason is that some mad scientist or spin doctor has removed their tiny brains.

Nevertheless, our children must achieve excellence in the global economy of the twenty-first century. They must not achieve mediocrity, or even incredible badness, but rather excellence. Many people oppose excellence, but I am courageous enough to assert that excellence is better than stuff that is not as good as excellence. I don't care who disagrees with me on this. I am a man of conviction, and I have never shrunk from controversy.

These concepts, "excellence," "productivity," "global economy

of the twenty-first century," are the guidelines by which I raise my children. We used to talk about "nurturing," "love," "discipline." But these are quaint, outdated concepts from the twentieth century. We need to get our kids up and running in the global economy of the twenty-first century. Whenever my son Sam, who's in kindergarten, wants to do something, whether it's watch Looney Tunes or ride his bike, I ask him: "How will this impact vis-a-vis the global economy?"

Sam needs to realize that he is competing with kindergartners in Burundi, Qatar, and Kazakhstan to see who is the most excellent kindergartner in the global economy of the twenty-first century. Kindergartners want to play, and yet play like drugs and poverty and crime—reduces a kindergartner's competitiveness. What we need is more standardized tests for kindergartners. In fact, kindergartners should themselves be standardized so that they can take their place among the reliable electronic components in the competitive climate of the global economy of the twenty-first century.

I call my approach "outcomes-based parenting." I never think at

all about what's happening at any given moment; I care only about the final result: an adult ready to take his place in the global etc.

The most important thing is accountability. That is why,

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whether he is taking a bath or taking a whack at his sister, my son is always also taking a test. I have developed the most reliable assessment instruments for childhood, testing everything from internet literacy to media saturation. This way I can hold my son accountable at all times, and I, as a parent, can be held accountable at all times by the federal government.

Let me describe some of the innovative, forward-looking features of outcomes-based parenting. Whenever my standardized assessment instruments show that Sam is not competitive, I have him spray-paint "I am a stakeholder in tomorrow" a hundred times on the concrete abutments in our neighborhood. This teaches him a valuable piece of gobbledegook and also humiliates him publicly, one of the key strategies of outcomes-based parenting.

If my kid wants to relax or play silly games I get up in his face and scream: "get competitive in the global marketplace of the twenty-first century, you less-than-productive brat!" This helps my child to achieve excellence, and every child must achieve excellence. We cannot afford to leave a single child behind in the twentieth century as we enter the twenty-first century of tomorrow.

It is often hard to motivate kindergartners. Showing them that learning is fun, for example, is completely counterproductive. But berating them for their lack of competitiveness in the global economy of the twenty-first century works every time. When my son wants to take a nap, I simply badger him with the

following imperative: "Grow the economy."

We need to think of our children as products we are churning out into the global economy of the twenty-first century. They should be better than the competitor's products. They should be just-in-time. Their excellence should be excellent, their competitiveness competitive, their productivity productive.

The most important aspect of outcomes-based parenting in the global economy of the twenty-first century is technology. Parenting has been performed by human beings for far too long. Technology is more efficient and, just as importantly, more expensive.

After a long day of outcomes-based parenting, when we've said our prayers and swallowed our Ritalin, Sam and I rock ourselves to sleep in our respective cubicles, chanting "infrastructure, information, Albert Gore; infrastructure, information, Albert Gore."

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