

## CHAPTER 3

---

# How to Develop WOW With Your Kids

Ash`s Discernment

*“All children are artists.  
The problem is how to remain an artist  
once they grow up.”*

—Pablo Picasso

**K**IDS ARE ONE of our most valuable treasures in life. No book on WOW would be complete without discussing them. One of the ways we can change the world is by teaching the next generation the power of WOW in their lives.

Unfortunately, most children grow up in an unWOW world. I’ve seen kids fall to drugs and alcohol when there is no WOW in their life. They grow up feeling that there’s no future for them. Many times, that message comes straight from day one, from the way a parent didn’t choose to show them love.

## The Book On WOW

When there's un-WOW at home on a daily basis, I've seen children bring that un-WOW out at school. The child is out of control in class, has absolutely no filter, or thinks it's perfectly all right to bully and swear. These are all signs of unWOW in their life. When no one is reminding them of how special they are, when no one's telling them that they can do almost anything, how can you expect them to be at their best?

Another sign is loss of communication. They cut communication because they have no reason to want to communicate. They feel self-conscious and insecure about their own lives and they cut people off. They think it's because of what other people do to them. They have a victim mentality. But truthfully, they isolate themselves, because they can't deal with their own emotions.

As these children grow into adulthood, they follow the path of mediocrity. There's no WOW in it. There may be the occasional moments of WOW if they are lucky, like getting married or having children. But unless they have someone that shows up in their life who is inspirational or someone who has given them a glimpse of what they can achieve, they will spend their time wishing and wanting the better things in life but ending up angry, disappointed and bitter. They don't understand the mindset of WOW to be able to achieve it.

### **Qualities Kids With WOW Possess**

Kids with WOW inside will have a powerful sense of independence. They have a well-developed sense of confidence, and a powerful sense of being able to control

## How to Develop WOW With Your Kids

their future. More than anything, this sense of autonomy, that they can control their future in any way they want is the key to them becoming anything they want to be.

The funny thing is, they're not always politically correct. They're not always the politest kids, because they will say what's on their mind and they're independent thinkers.

They're not afraid to go against the establishment, but they do it in a productive, positive way. We're not talking about someone that's going to graffiti up the sides of the school or burn the school down in protest. These are the children you'll see making a difference in their world at an early age. Taking action and caring about others, while their peers are watching TV, playing video games or being on Facebook.

These kids, they're not always the ones that have the best marks, but they're always the ones that are doing well in the courses they care about. If they're able to choose the road and route they want to go, they find a way to excel.

Some other attributes you will see is that they are highly creative, energetic and generally very positive. They do well in sports and other extra-curricular activities, in fact they tend to do well in most things. That doesn't mean that kids that struggle in school can't be WOW kids. WOW comes from the heart, and if a child truly tries in life, that is WOW.

My kids were never the top students, but they were always among the most positive, popular, happy, loved and liked in school and everybody knew them. Yes, early on, my daughter got high marks and was a top athlete. My son too, enjoyed similar successes, but it's not always about marks, it's about their voice and their ability to influence others.

## The Book On WOW

In my opinion, WOW kids work smart, not hard. They work diligently, they work confidently, they contribute. Other kids seek them out, to complete the task. They're always the ones leading charge of the project and occasionally will come home frustrated because they had to do everybody else's work. Teachers love them because they relate well to adults and children.

One of the things I love about WOW kids is their ability to be polite and kind. More than that, they're able to speak to adults in a respectful, yet equal way. Kids that have WOW in their lives, that are achieving WOW even early on, can relate to people of all ages, not just people their age. WOW kids tend to be very good with other kids. They are tomorrow's leaders, educators and teachers.

### **5 Ways to Develop WOW in Your Kids**

While there may be the occasional, rare child that naturally has some WOW qualities, most kids develop them as they grow, through their parents instilling key virtues in them.

As a parent, you must be willing to invest the time and effort into your kids so they learn from an early age how to live a WOW life. It's a long-term commitment, where you won't see the end results sometimes until they are well into adulthood. There will be rewards along the way as you see your children grow in it, but there is a sweetness that comes when you watch your adult kids succeed.

So, how do you develop WOW in your kids? Let's look at some of the easy things you can do each day.

## How to Develop WOW With Your Kids

### **1. The Words You Speak**

There has never been a day that I did not tell my child, in some form or another that I love them, that I miss them, that they're incredible. Ever since my children were infants, I can remember changing their diapers and looking into their eyes and saying, "You are beautiful. You are outstanding. You are extraordinary and your father adores you."

Now, as they got older, I would still tell them I love them. As they got out of the car (because I drove them everywhere) I would say, "Tell me everything that happens later. Make a difference, achieve your best!" I wanted to make sure that they would leave my presence with a positive message to carry through the day.

### **2. How You Handle Disagreement**

We have never had a disagreement that we couldn't get past. We have always talked things out and 30 seconds later, we were in each other's arms. It was always a priority to keep communication open and listen to each other with an open heart.

### **3. Age Appropriate Independence**

We allowed our kids to learn how to make choices from a young age. As they got older they were allowed to make more and more decisions. The key to this concept is allowing them to make decisions when they are ready to accept the consequences of that decision.

For example, we didn't allow our kids to get piercings and tattoos. Those are decisions that you cannot easily

reverse, so they needed to be mature enough to live with their choices.

#### **4. Lots of Creative Activity**

When they were small children, we would do everything together. I would take them to libraries and read books to them. We would go on treasure hunts, we would create fun games. I would make sure they had creative outlets. Both children studied music, from a very early age, and were able to choose whatever instrument they wanted to play. They were also permitted to choose their own sports.

My son ultimately went into swimming for two years and then he chose to go into jump rope, where he has competed nationally. He is ranked as one of Canada's top competitors and competes internationally as well. My daughter was a swimmer for nine years, competitively and then she went on to instruct swimming, and was a lifeguard for several years. Now she is training to be a paramedic.

Our kids, while still in their teens, lived these extraordinary lives because they have the capacity to reach for further horizons. They have that capacity because we taught them how to set goals. We taught them to go after the things they want to achieve. They are living a life of WOW. Imagine how exciting it is, how affirming it is, when you, a teenager, are competing in Paris, France, for the World Jump Rope Championship, meeting people from all over the world?

Or my daughter, who has had the opportunity to swim competitively across Canada. She has learned to save lives early on and now she shares her knowledge, teaching young

## How to Develop WOW With Your Kids

kids. Consider how proud she must be when she hears from other parents, “You make such a difference to my child. My child wants to come swimming because you teach her;” she can believe it and continue to do more and more.

### **5. Be Involved in Family Decisions**

Another way to develop WOW in your kids is make sure they are involved in decisions. Where you move, what house you buy, when you go shopping, in all kinds of circumstances. Give them some choices of what they want. They must have fruits and vegetables, but let them pick them out.

Have them contribute to choices in the house, when you’re designing things. Even when they’re young. Let them choose their bedrooms, their colors and their art. Give them lots of choice, because that will empower them. Let them know that they’re contributing.

Most children are constantly told what to do, have things done for them, and as such have no sense of contribution. What is the result? They end up feeling left out and unable to contribute WOW within their families. They begin to think, “What’s the point? You’re not going to listen to me. You don’t know what I want. I’m just going to do what I want.” What do you want your kids to say?

My kids continue to want to spend time with my wife and me to this day. They want to go on vacations, they want to go to dinner, they want to have fun with us. We enjoy them more and more as they develop into adulthood, too. They are growing into interesting, inspiring, WOW people!

## The Results of Raising WOW Kids

The biggest results you will see from raising WOW kids is seeing them grow into passionate, engaged adults. They love to spend time together as a family when they are adults. Instead of withdrawing, or moving away from you mentally, emotionally and physically, they draw close to you.

The four of us go for a spa day, getting manicures and pedicures together. It's quite funny. Some families go out camping and hiking together; my kids and I like to go get our nails done together. It doesn't really matter what you do, you can have all your family fun favourites.

We love to vacation together. We always make it fun. My 20-year-old daughter and my 17-year-old son still will jump into bed with us on a Saturday morning if they're home, and talk about what we'll do for the day. We love it when they do that.

Then that trickles its way over to other children. Their friends want to be part of the family. You know that you have WOW kids when they are proud to "show off" their parents! There has never been a time where my kids have ever made my wife and I feel like we must stay away from their friends. They want us to be at their parties. They want us to be at their shows, and their sporting events. If I'm busy, my children immediately ask, "Why aren't you going to come?" They have come to expect us to be interested and engaged in their lives. That's when you know that you've achieved the WOW, when we're not seen as a burden to them. We're not an inconvenience to their plans. They want us to be a part of their life.

## How to Develop WOW With Your Kids

It doesn't matter how old your kids are. Even if they are adults, it is never too late for you to start showing them WOW in their life. Make that connection and build that bridge. Give them opportunities to WOW you and then when they do, make sure that you recognize, appreciate and reward them for it. You will be so glad you did.

Have you enjoyed this book so far? If you have, would you do me a favour? If you got it on Amazon or some other online book site, would you go and leave a review? Every review helps others to know that this book will have a positive effect on their life.

Now in the next chapter we are going to look at how you expand that WOW out to the rest of your family and friends. The effects of WOW just keep growing.