

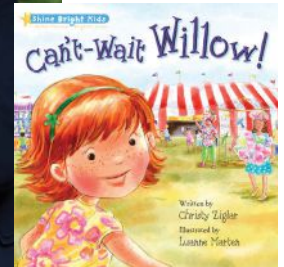


One of the hardest parts of being the grownup is having the discipline to enforce the consequences of our children's actions; especially when less-than-ideal choices have been made and our kids are not pleased with the result. Though difficult, I think this is critical.

As parents, we have to be consistent. None of us like to see our child struggle or suffer, but denying our children their every "want" and even allowing them to fail or simply "miss out" from time to time lets them learn from their mistakes and helps build character. Learning to work hard at something to overcome challenges develops perseverance. Isn't it better to learn these hard life lessons as a child when the consequences are relatively mild?

To quote my uncle, Zig Ziglar, "the chief cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what you want the most for what you want now." If we haven't determined what we want the most, it's easy to get distracted by the dozens of temptations we face every day. In our instant-gratification world and with our consumptive lifestyles, convincing our children of the benefits of delayed gratification is a challenge. The more we have conversations about specific goals and what's really important, the more we encourage our kids to shine their brightest!

We've all heard many times that 'actions speak louder than words' and this is never truer than in parenting. Character is taught "doing life" together every day, and our kids will emulate what they observe in us. Let's all be more purposeful and proactive so instead of making choices that are merely "good enough," we'll make choices that are GREAT! Let's commit to saying 'no' to distractions and focus more of our resources on the things in life that are truly important. Together we'll build a brighter world. **Choose Right. Shine Bright.**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christy Ziglar is an author, mother of twins, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and the niece of legendary motivator, Zig Ziglar. *Can't-Wait Willow!*, released by Ideals Children's Books, is the first book in the new Shine Bright Kids picture book series that teaches the importance of making good choices. For more info, free reward charts and additional parenting resources, visit AlwaysShineBright.com



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