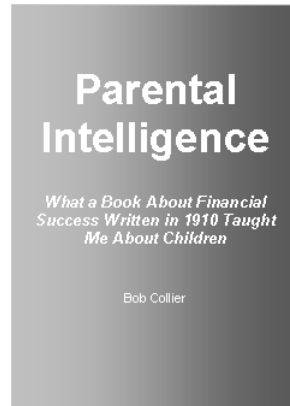


Parental Intelligence

By Bob Collier



What a Book About Financial Success Written in 1910
Taught Me About Children

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Thank you from the bottom of my heart to these people who have made a major contribution to the publication of this ebook:

First, in every way, my wife Mary, the mother of our two children, who has always been the rock solid foundation of our happy family.

Though this ebook is about my personal parenting philosophy and how it developed during a time when I was the dominant influence in our first born child's life, I'm only too happy to make it clear that I parent in *partnership* with my wife. Mary has a lot more 'natural' talent with children than I have, and shares many of my beliefs about parenting in her own way; and in all areas and phases of our shared parenthood, her ideas and actions have always been, and are, as positively influential on both of our children as my own, often more so.

Our two wonderful children, Bronwyn and Patrick, who, between them, turned my life into a Fabulous Adventure and who have demonstrated to me 'before my very eyes' that magic happens when we're allowed to be who we are.

Phil Gosling, Founder of the Home Publishers Association, who motivated me to create *Parental Intelligence* – both the newsletter and the ebook – and whose expertise and encouragement have been nudging me forward in my life since 1996.

www.homepublish.com

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www.thescienceofabundantlife.com

Welcome

As the Publisher of *Parental Intelligence*, my free online parenting newsletter, it has been my great pleasure to pass on to my readers, over the course of more than two years, a cornucopia of excellent articles, ideas and tips on the subject of parenting, and on related subjects such as personal development and education.

It's been a privilege and a joy for me to learn so much myself from some of the 'brightest minds in the business' and to be able to share what I've learned with others.

The time has come, however, for me to share with you something that is very much my own.

I was motivated to write *Parental Intelligence: The eBook* – this ebook - as an 'extra' to my newsletter in order to demonstrate that any ordinary person with a desire to bring out the best in their children and in themselves and who is willing to 'risk the unusual', can produce truly extraordinary results.

I was and still am such a person. I'm an 'ordinary bloke'. But, for most of the past twenty years I've had the good fortune to be able to do some very out of the ordinary things with my life.

Things that have changed my perception of reality – and very much for the better.

When I first set out to write this ebook, I had hoped to extract from my experiences a set of principles, or 'rules', that I could offer to you as a guide to 'how I parent'. A guide that would be easy to follow and from which you could pick and choose things to try for yourself if you so desired.

But it proved impossible for me to separate my beliefs about parenting from the context of how they evolved.

So, I've decided to simply tell you my story.

Essentially, it's the story of how I became a 'stay-at-home dad' when my first born child, my daughter Bronwyn, was a baby and of how I developed my personal parenting philosophy from a very unusual source – *The Science of Getting Rich*, a book about financial success written almost a hundred years ago.

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I trust that, by the time you reach the end of this short but hopefully interesting story, you will have encountered at least *one* idea that can change your life and the lives of your children in a positive way.

I'd like to think that there would be many more than that!

I feel confident in suggesting to you that you will appreciate the nature of my parenting philosophy so much more by exploring for yourself the timeless wisdom from which it evolved – *The Science of Getting Rich*.

(You may also, of course, decide to apply that wisdom to its *original* and *intended* purpose.)

You can download a free ebook edition of *The Science of Getting Rich* either by visiting my *Parental Intelligence* website or through the link at the back of this ebook.

Thank you for reading *Parental Intelligence: The eBook*.

My very best wishes to you for happiness and success,

Bob Collier
Publisher, Parental Intelligence
<http://www.parental-intelligence.com>

October 2004

P.S. Please feel free to pass this ebook on to all your friends – especially those who have children.

Or simply give them this url:
<http://www.parental-intelligence.com/parentalebook.pdf>

Parental Success Through Creative Thought

In 1985, when I was 33 years old, I read a book called *Financial Success Through Creative Thought* – it had been written seventy-five years previously by a certain Wallace D. Wattles, a man about whom very little was known, apparently, beyond that he was, at one time, the mayor of Toledo, Ohio.

I now know that book by its original title - *The Science of Getting Rich*.

I'd bought my version of it – my copy of *Financial Success Through Creative Thought* - by mail order after spotting an advertisement in a newspaper, and I believe to this day that my purchase of it was no coincidence.

At the time, I was just about to become a parent.

My wife Mary and I had been married for almost eight years when we conceived our first child. Secretly, I'd been afraid of having children, and that may have had something to do with the fact that we had practically resigned ourselves to being a childless couple before we were jolted off course on that fateful day when Mary discovered she was pregnant.

The roots of my fear of having children were in my own childhood, which, for the most part, had been sad and painful. That's all I need to say about it, except that, now grown up and married, I'd been reluctant to bring a child into the world for the reason that I believed it would inevitably suffer the same unhappy childhood that I'd experienced.

But, now I was to be a father whether I liked it or not. Ready or not.

What kind of a father would I be? What kind of a father did I *want* to be? Firstly, I wanted nothing to do with the way I'd been brought up, so I needed to find something very different to that. The problem was that most of what I'd been brought up with was pretty much the 'conventional wisdom' of childrearing.

The solution, however, was in the book I'd just been reading – *Financial Success Through Creative Thought*.

Here, in its pages, were ideas about human potential that I found truly inspirational. Here, also, were all the clues about success that I'd already started to uncover in a number of different other places, *integrated* into one comprehensive system.

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And it didn't matter one bit about the secret fear of money that had been so much a part of my inheritance – the fear that might, in other circumstances, have added Wallace D. Wattles' book *Financial Success Through Creative Thought* to the stack of 'success' books that I'd read once and would probably never look at again.

It was okay. I was safe. I wasn't going to use the 'principles of success' I'd been reading about in *Financial Success Through Creative Thought* to actually *achieve* financial success. I was going to use them to achieve something else I wanted even more than that – a happy childhood for the baby about to come into my life.

The path that was leading me in the direction of that possibility had, in fact, already been established by my wife - the woman who had, through our years of marriage, stabilised my life and saved it from shipwreck and who was now to be the mother of my child.

When my wife became pregnant, I was clueless. Totally. It was Mary who took control of the entire experience, including reading numerous books about pregnancy, birth and babies, familiarising herself with every aspect of whatever she might encounter in the year ahead.

It was Mary who decided – completely 'out of the blue', it seemed to me at the time, although I know it wasn't - that she would have a 'natural birth'. It was she, then, who introduced us both to that world of parenting others may now think of as 'alternative' or 'progressive', but which, at the time, was simply the way we chose to go.

For my part, I was eager to try out my own new ideas on the subject. Even if I didn't understand them. I didn't. But, they felt good. They felt hopeful. They seemed to me, at some level of my personal experience, a true reflection of life as it really can be.

That's how a book about financial success written in 1910 came to be the *only* 'parenting guide' I used when I first became a parent and the foundation of *all* my parenting success ever since.

The Monistic Theory of the Universe

“The monistic theory of the universe – the theory that One is All, and that All is One; that one Substance manifests itself as the seeming many elements of the material world – is of Hindu origin, and has been gradually winning its way into the thought of the western world for two hundred years.”

Preface to *The Science of Getting Rich*

Understanding the ‘monistic theory of the universe’ is central to an appreciation of the ‘principles of success’ that Wallace D. Wattles promotes throughout his book *The Science of Getting Rich*.

Indeed, in the Preface to the book, Mr. Wallace states: “It is expected that the reader will take the fundamental statements upon faith, just as he would take statements concerning a law of electrical action if it were promulgated by a Marconi or an Edison; and, taking the statements upon faith, that he will prove their truth by acting upon them without fear or hesitation.”

However, the world view that there is more to ‘reality’ than can be perceived by the physical senses - that there is a level of existence at which we’re all connected to each other, and that our actions can have commensurate effects in the lives of those beyond our physical locality - is *not* the view held by most people.

When I first read *The Science of Getting Rich* myself, the whole concept was completely foreign to me. I’d never even heard of it before. I was, at that time, very much of the belief that the ‘real world’ consisted entirely of what I could see, hear, smell, touch or taste.

But, in the event, and with my particular purpose in mind, it didn’t actually *matter* to me whether All was One and One was All or not. I intended to follow the instructions in the book anyway.

So I suppose, in effect, I did behave as if it was true.

Growth

“The object of all life is development; and everything that lives has an inalienable right to all the development it is capable of attaining.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 1

On the Fourth of July 1985, in the birth centre at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Sydney, Australia - in the presence only of a midwife, her own mother, and her husband (that’s me!) and with soft music playing in the background - my wife Mary gave birth naturally to our daughter Bronwyn.

It was official. I was a daddy!

Already, from my reading of *The Science of Getting Rich*, I’d started to understand, there at the outset of parenthood, that being alive was about growing. You couldn’t have one without the other.

“A seed dropped into the ground springs into activity, and in the act of living produces a hundred more seeds; life, by living, multiplies itself. It is forever Becoming More; it must do so, if it continues to be at all.”

Of course this was true. It was obvious, yet I’d really never noticed it before.

I realised then that being a parent was not just about having a baby.

One day, my baby daughter would be an adult. A grown up. I now had a mission that was above and beyond my simple desire for my newborn daughter to have a happy childhood.

My purpose as a parent was to help her become a successful adult. Whatever exactly that might turn out to be.

Although our daughter had been born in Australia, my wife and I were actually resident in England. We had come to Australia during Mary’s pregnancy because her family lived there and she wanted to be with them for the birth of our first child.

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So, we brought our new baby back to England, when she was about ten weeks old. Soon we were living close to where we had been before we'd gone over to Australia and started to establish our roles as 'mother' and 'father'.

In the months that followed, Bronwyn was, naturally, with her mother most of the time. Outside of the new thoughts hatching in my brain as I mulled over the words of wisdom in my 'parenting guide', I was very much a conventional father, out in the workforce Monday to Friday, most of the time I spent with my baby daughter being at the weekends.

I had a very undemanding job that I hated, working as an accounts clerk, but I was glad to at least be employed. I felt as if I was 'doing the right thing' for my new family. When at home, I was very keen to master at least the *basic* 'mechanics' of caring for a baby - those that I was able to attempt anyway. Obviously, not the breastfeeding!

I think my own mother was actually quite impressed with my willingness to change a soiled nappy or to play with my baby daughter or rock her to sleep, although she would never say anything.

But, then, I never spoke to my mother about my newly evolving 'parenting philosophy' (I couldn't discuss it with my own dad, either - he'd left home when I was eight and I'd hardly seen anything of him up to the time he died when I was in my mid-twenties).

It was all too awkward. I didn't want to discuss what I was learning even with my own wife. The fact was, I knew that much of what I'd been reading about in *The Science of Getting Rich* required a willingness to consider a certain perception of reality that would probably be beyond the understanding of most of the people who shared that culture of 'ordinary people' in which I'd grown up and always lived, and which I was to continue to be a part of.

I felt that, if I talked about what I was learning with others who had not read the book, I would only invite ridicule or some form of reaction that would make it more difficult for me to function in my everyday parenting activities. So, I decided to just keep it to myself and get on with parenting my daughter in the way that I wanted to as best as I could as opportunity allowed.

This was a situation that I was to find myself in time and time again in the years ahead. In fact, I can look back now on twenty years as a parent and realise that I've never met face to face one single person who's read *The Science of Getting Rich*.

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That may go some way toward explaining why I've never told anyone this story before.

By the end of 1985, my wife Mary and I and our gorgeous baby daughter were enjoying a fairly quiet life in rural England, snuggled together in a big old cottage high up on a ridge overlooking the River Severn.

Then something very interesting happened.

Something that I suspect may well have been no coincidence, when I look back on it.

When our daughter Bronwyn was about six months old, my wife was offered a job by the company at which she'd been employed before her pregnancy. It paid considerably more than I could have earned from another dead end job.

Mary has always been the career-oriented member of our partnership. I tended more towards a procession of dead end jobs interspersed with periods of unemployment. So, it didn't take a lot of 'soul searching' for us to decide that Mary would return to the workforce and I would become the full-time at-home parent.

And thus it came to be that, one cold frosty morning in early February, my wife drove off to work and I was left 'home alone' with my baby daughter in my arms.

That was my first day ever as a 'stay-at-home dad'. Very soon afterwards, my life took off on a never-to-be-forgotten voyage of astonishing adventures.

Vision

“To do things in the way you want to do them, you will have to acquire the ability to think the way you want to think ...

To think what you want to think is to think TRUTH, regardless of appearances.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 4

Now that I was home with my baby daughter and there was nobody else there except us for most of the day, certainly on weekdays, I felt a sense of liberation.

There would be no more self-conscious tiptoeing around the subject. I could apply what I was learning from *The Science of Getting Rich* with enthusiasm and to my heart's content and no one was there to inhibit me.

I could now put those ideas into more consistent use - even though a part of *me* was still uncomfortable with the somewhat dramatic contrast between what the book was telling me about 'life, the universe and everything' and what I'd been told about it by every significant adult in my own childhood. That discomfort was to last for quite some time.

But, I did have one major fact in my favour. My first child was a girl.

I'd grown up with two brothers. I had no experience of watching a girl grow up, so, the good news was that I had no negative memories in that respect to get in my way.

This whole experience was to be, as far as I was concerned, something that was totally innovative, something nobody in my family tree that I was aware of had ever tried before, something that would be created on a canvas as blank as I could get it.

With the support of my trusty 'parenting guide', I would get what I wanted by developing within myself the *new* ideas, *new* attitudes and *new* behaviours that would get the job done, no matter what it took.

So, there in that big old cottage in rural England overlooking the winding River Severn, an experiment began that would change my perception of reality.

But, where *exactly* was I to start?

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“Thought is the only power which can produce tangible riches from the Formless Substance. The stuff from which all things are made is a substance which thinks, and a thought of form in this substance produces the form.”

My success or failure as a parent would begin and end in the same place. It would be determined in the three pounds or so of grey stuff sitting in the space between my ears.

That’s where I would be exploring my thirty-plus years of personal memories for those that would support me in my work, and where I would create new memories for the same purpose. It was where I would perceive the effects of my efforts, and be able to make judgements about my daughter’s development. It was where I would select my responses and make my decisions, whether consciously or unconsciously.

I knew that it was possible for me to deliberately *choose* my thoughts. I could, indeed, *think what I like*.

How incredible! To discover after three decades of carrying that brain around inside my head that my thoughts *didn’t* just slosh around inside it all the time, out of control. I could learn to *direct* them.

As *The Science of Getting Rich* confirmed, “Every man has the natural and inherent power to think what he wants to think, but it requires far more effort to do so than it does to think the thoughts which are suggested by appearances ...”

So, I had to have some tools, then, to help me do what I needed to do and the ones I had were the techniques of ‘creative visualization’ and what I referred to at the time as ‘affirmations’ (what I’d probably call today ‘positive self-talk’).

“You must form a clear and definite mental picture of what you want ...”

This was where I was to formulate my vision of how I wanted my child’s future and my future as a parent to look - but this was where I had a very tough time.

I found it extremely difficult to visualize what I wanted.

One of the reasons, I believe, was that, all through my adult years I’d spent much of my time in jobs that required either strict linear thinking or no thinking at all, and I’d become decidedly *very unimaginative*. I was most definitely a predominantly ‘left-brained’ person with a mode of thinking that was very ‘word heavy’.

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The main part of the problem, though, was that very often when I attempted to visualize how I'd like my daughter's life to develop, I would connect in my mind to painful experiences from my own childhood and the attempted visualization would come to an abrupt end.

Nonetheless, at a fundamental level at least, I did have a *very* simple and straightforward goal. I wanted my daughter to be happy.

So, knowing that my wife Mary was as equally committed to our daughter's success in the world as I was – and, in fact, she was *far* better qualified in that area than I was anyway, I was willing to trust that my mission of helping my daughter become a successful adult would be accomplished, in any event, if I focused, day to day, primarily on her happiness.

To get around all my mental obstacles, I devised a simple 'default visualization'.

I imagined my daughter's face, as happy as I could make it, and her posture as it would be if she was having fun. Just that. Like a snapshot.

I carried that 'snapshot' around in my mind all day, every day, until it became so strong it was always the easiest thing for me to think of and always the general 'blueprint' I was working to.

(By the way, this technique is **worth a million dollars!** If you take nothing else away from this story, take my 'default visualization' away with you and use it in your interactions with your own children. You may be pleasantly surprised by what happens.)

As time passed, I was able to develop and expand my imagination to some degree and create 'localised visions' relating to specific things in wider areas of my daughter's life, but my default visualization remained very much my 'guiding light'.

"When you try to impress your wants upon Substance, remember that it must be done by a coherent statement; you must know what you want, and be definite."

Now, *that* was a lot easier. Words - no problem.

I used affirmations. I collected them. I made them up every day. I loved them!

An affirmation is a statement in the *present tense* of something you want to manifest in the physical world - in my case, the attributes of a successful person.

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And, since all human attributes exist *in potential* in all human beings, the affirmations are *true*, even when they're not yet *factual*.

So, when my daughter splodged a great big dollop of paint onto a piece of paper and told me it was a tree, I'd say to her, "Bronwyn, you're very artistic."

And *is* my daughter artistic? Yes. She always has been. Ever since she was born.

Words direct attention, and where attention goes energy follows. Energy creates.

"As the Formless Stuff thinks of a form, it takes that form; as it thinks of a motion, it makes that motion. That is the way all things were created. We live in a thought world, which is part of a thought universe."

But, I could do more beyond simply commenting positively on the things my daughter did in order to assist the process of creation.

I had only to always keep in mind that I was to "think TRUTH, regardless of appearances" and to believe, therefore, that, whatever I wanted, it was already in existence only waiting to be brought into physical reality.

I had only to employ the right words and phrases that would generate the desired outcome and *not* something else - making sure that the comments I made to my daughter were in a form that would direct her attention to where I wanted it to go.

For example, something my daughter loved to do when she was a little girl was walk across the tops of walls. She had a passion for it. As her skill increased, she began to attempt walls that were taller than I was, so that I was no longer able to hold her hand if necessary.

I would create a picture in my mind's eye of my daughter walking safely to the end of the wall, and that would keep my attention fixed on *my* desired result and direct *my* energy towards its achievement. When, occasionally, my daughter would have a moment of uncertainty, I'd say to her, *not* "Don't fall", but "Keep your balance", or "Be safe", so that *her* attention would be on keeping her balance and being safe.

And she always did and always was.

Every day, there were many such opportunities to use positive words and phrases to help keep *my* mind and my daughter's mind OFF what we didn't want and ON what we did want.

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“Things are not brought into being by thinking about their opposites.”

The visualizing, however, was much more haphazard, although it was relatively easy to imagine good things for my daughter. It was imagining good things for myself that was the real struggle, because of my ‘mental blocks’ in that respect.

In any event, I kept my default visualization in my consciousness, adding details to my general vision or to specific ‘mini-visions’ at various times whenever I was capable of doing so, and I steadfastly practiced using words and phrases that supported continuous forward movement in my daughter’s development.

That was my core strategy throughout all those years. And it worked beautifully.

Acceptance

“You have no right to use your will power upon another person, even “for his own good”; for you do not know what is for his good. The science of getting rich does not require you to apply power or force to any other person, in any way whatsoever. There is not the slightest necessity for doing so; indeed, any attempt to use your will upon others will only tend to defeat your purpose.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 9

I quickly developed and maintained the habit of speaking positively to my baby daughter whenever an opportunity presented itself - and especially whenever I felt it was necessary to encourage her in her chosen activities - but, the truth is, it was really never necessary for me to be constantly preoccupied with it.

“A seed dropped into the ground springs into activity, and in the act of living produces a hundred more seeds ...”

So I'd read.

“Intelligence is under this same necessity for continuous increase. Every thought we think makes it necessary for us to think another thought; consciousness is continually expanding. Every fact we learn leads us to the learning of another fact; knowledge is continually increasing. Every talent we cultivate brings to mind the desire to cultivate another talent; we are subject to the urge of life, seeking expression, which ever drives us on to know more, to do more, and to be more.”

If I was a gardener, then, and I dropped a seed into the ground, what would I do next? Feed it. Water it. Make sure the soil was good and there was enough sunshine, I guess. Then I'd just let it grow and trust in Nature.

This was to be the most amazing revelation of my life.

From my reading of *The Science of Getting Rich*, I became so excited by the possibilities of what it was teaching me that I decided – whenever it was totally up to me – when it was just my daughter and me, alone together – I was going to be a *total anarchist*.

As far as I was concerned, there were no limits. Bronnie could eat when she was hungry; sleep when she was tired; play all day if she wanted to, run around, jump up and down and do whatever she liked.

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She watched TV whenever she wanted to; she wore whatever clothes she wanted to; we read the books *she* chose and played the games she wanted to play; and, generally speaking, when we were out and about we went wherever my daughter wanted to go.

I was *more than happy* for her to be the leader and for me to be the follower. I was anxious to find out what happened next!

I thought of myself as like the 'family butler'. Always at my employer's service yet secretly wiser, ready to make a suggestion or an appropriate recommendation when it was needed. I loved it.

And when I opened the door to this whole new world, my baby daughter showed me just how truly *wonderful* life can be when you simply allow people to be who they are.

I soon discovered some very interesting 'facts of life'.

I didn't have to convince my daughter that learning how to walk and talk was a good idea. She already knew. She *wanted* to walk and talk. Amazing!

No need for me to sell her on the benefits of learning about her environment. She wanted to explore her world anyway.

And her natural friendliness, in itself, almost *effortlessly* generated the acquisition of social skills and successful relationships with other children and with adults.

For my part, I 'hovered' at a discreet distance, ready to be instantly involved if needed. I watched with fascination, only speaking when spoken to, all of my talents and abilities available to my daughter at her invitation. I stepped back and admired the delightful expressions of her natural creative energy.

I learned that behaviour is just behaviour and that there are really only two kinds - behaviour I approve of and behaviour I *disapprove* of. And, all I had to do to work the magic was make a conscious decision to approve of *everything!*

It was unrestricted freedom, or as unrestricted as the natural 'checks and balances' of interpersonal dynamics would allow. The results were absolutely *fabulous!*

The sparkling bright, wonderfully charming and accomplished child who emerged was unlike any child I'd ever met in all my life.

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And how was all this achieved? Primarily, by stepping aside, out of the way of the immense creative energy my daughter was born with and which she was instinctively compelled to use in the pursuit of positive experience.

“It is the natural and inherent impulse of life to seek to live more; it is the nature of intelligence to enlarge itself, and of consciousness to seek to extend its boundaries and find fuller expression.”

Where, then, was the necessity for me to constantly tell my daughter what to do?

There was none.

I could trust my daughter to create her own successful future. She could make *all* her own decisions. She was free to discover her own limits for herself – or if there were none.

Though I could make a thousand educated guesses, only my daughter really *knew* what it was that she needed in her life to be happy and successful.

This was *brilliant!* My daughter actually *wanted* to be happy and successful – just as much as I wanted that *for* her.

Could I, then, suggest that the experience was like a kind of around the clock, wall to wall nirvana? I don't think so. There was much negotiating to do at various times and the frequent hard work of finding creative solutions. But it was, however, most certainly like *water flowing downhill*.

All the 'typical' problems that can occur between a parent and a growing child – the problems that I was, apparently, 'supposed' to expect – were only conspicuous by their absence. My daughter and I just never got the chance to create any conflict of any kind.

I was perfectly happy for her to live all the life she was capable of living. What could she possibly object to in that?

It was a great awakening.

Harmony

“Mistakes come from acting hastily, or from acting in fear or doubt, or in forgetfulness of the Right Motive, which is more life to all, and less to none.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 13

By the time Bronwyn was a year old, my wife and I and our wonderful daughter were living in an English village of about a thousand inhabitants in the Cotswold Hills, a particularly beautiful part of the country. It was the kind of place where everybody knew who you were and, when we first arrived, the local riding club used to clip-clop up the lane past our kitchen window every Sunday and a village ‘bobby’ pedaled around the place on his bicycle. We had a derelict pigsty in our garden. It was all very olde worlde and ‘traditional’.

We lived there for more than seven years and, in all that time, I was the only stay-at-home dad. It was a defining period of my life for me and it was during this period of Bronnie’s life that she came under the influence of adults other than her parents for the first time.

To me, it felt like quite a serious barrier to get through.

I was only too aware that most adults didn’t behave toward children – either their own or other people’s – the way I did. And, of course, I was determined to do it *my way*, whatever anybody else thought about it.

“More life to all, and less to none” became my mantra – a constant reminder to keep my mind on what I wanted and trust that everything would work out.

It did. I had no problems with anybody.

“No matter how tremendous an obstruction may appear at a distance, you will find that if you go on in the Certain Way it will disappear as you approach it, or that a way over, through, or around it will appear.”

I got on very well with all the mothers I came to know at the village toddler group, then the playgroup three mornings a week, and I got on well with those men in their lives that I had anything to do with – although I sometimes wondered what they *really* thought about it all. I got on well with Bronnie’s teachers when she started school.

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I believed that each and every individual relationship between my daughter and any other person was between her and that person and that I had no say in the matter, unless it affected her relationship with *me*. Otherwise, how could those relationships function successfully? That seemed to work.

“It is not your part to guide or supervise the creative process; all you have to do with that is to retain your vision, stick to your purpose, and maintain your faith and gratitude.”

In every situation in which I had every right to do so, I was able to parent my daughter exactly as I pleased without deferring to anybody else’s opinion or standards.

The only person I deferred to was my wife Mary. She was my ‘moderator’. Who knows *what* loopy ideas I would have come up with if she hadn’t been keeping track of things?

Many of the people I got to know during this time were actually very supportive of what I was doing, which surprised me - especially since a situation where the mother goes out to work and the father stays at home with the child would have seemed quite bizarre to *me* only a few years previously.

And I could tell by simple observation that, merely by virtue of being a big bloke with long hair and a beard, I was able to get away with things that the mothers wouldn’t even try. That would have made things easier for me, I’m sure.

Perhaps, also, my rather eccentric, decidedly child-led parenting style was generally accepted without comment simply because I was a man – and, of course, didn’t know any better!

Or could it be that the results were so obviously wonderful, nobody could possibly take issue with the methods used to achieve them?

Motivation

“Every day is either a successful day or a day of failure; and it is the successful days which get you what you want.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 12

I wanted to give my daughter every opportunity for personal development.

But, there were times to be passive and allow her to ‘do her own thing’ and there were times to be active and work alongside her in what she was doing.

I had a couple of tricks up my sleeve for those situations.

One of the bravest things I did (or maddest, possibly) was to determine that - unless I honestly had a good reason to say “no” – I would say “yes” to *every* request my daughter made. No matter what it was. Without exception.

What an exciting adventure *that was!* I never knew what was going to happen from one day to the next, but it generally turned out to be the most tremendous fun.

Sometimes, though, it *was* very hard work, especially when Bronnie wanted to do things that were very physical. But I stuck to my promise.

I kept my ‘default visualization’ in my mind’s eye and I had a special affirmation that I used to keep going when I was tired: “I always have enough energy to take one more step.”

In fact, I made a challenge of taking the one more step and going beyond even that.

When Bronnie asked for five more pushes on the swing, I would offer her ten and end up giving her fifteen, and so on.

Overall, learning how to parent according to the principles of *The Science of Getting Rich* was, I have to say, very *different*, very self-contained, very experimental - and a voyage both of discovery and of *self*-discovery that often followed a course that possibly wouldn’t have made much sense to an outside observer.

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Sometimes I wasn't quite sure of the best way to interpret or apply what I'd read, and I often made mistakes that had to be corrected. Especially in the first year or so, I had to pay strict attention to the task of deliberately disregarding the negative beliefs from my past that popped into my head from time to time.

I just kept pushing myself forward – 'baby steps and continuous forward movement', as somebody once put it - even though there were many occasions when I felt as if my progress consisted of two steps forward and one step back.

But, while I may have had to be very hard on myself sometimes just to keep going, my daughter seemed to always be naturally and almost effortlessly successful. *Constantly* making progress. Water flowing downhill.

That was part of the miracle for me. I could never get anywhere near a perfect expression of what I was trying to do – I rarely, if ever, produced the masterful performance of my duties that I was constantly striving for – yet excellent results came from the experience anyway.

Though I feel extremely privileged to have been gifted such an opportunity to make a difference in my daughter's life, I can see now that it really wasn't me doing the work.

Gratitude

“The more gratefully we fix our minds on the Supreme when good things come to us, the more good things we will receive, and the more rapidly they will come; and the reason simply is that the mental attitude of gratitude draws the mind into closer touch with the source from which the blessings come.”

The Science of Getting Rich, Chapter 7

I have a lot to be thankful for, and I'm only too happy for those thanks to go out to the creative power, whatever it really is, that was truly responsible for the marvelous results I witnessed in those almost five years when my daughter and I shared so much of each other's lives.

I have found it true, in any event, that, whatever else I might believe, when I count my blessings, the act of pondering upon the many wonderful things that have happened in my life since I became a parent makes it easier for me to believe that this really *is* the way it should be. That keeps my mind always open to possibilities.

I look at my grown up daughter now, 19 years old and in her second year at university, and marvel at how far ahead she is of where *I* was at that age, a much more successful person all together. I think of all my daughter's achievements and accomplishments, far beyond anything I would ever even have attempted; and all the challenges she encountered on her journey to adulthood that she seemed to take in her stride – challenges that would have terrified *me*.

I'm grateful that my wife was there to be the solid base upon which I was able to stand and that she and I were able to provide our daughter with a happy childhood, the goal I wanted so much to achieve. I'm grateful that our daughter is now a successful young adult - and that our son is now growing into a fine young man.

But, what I'm most grateful for is this:

All those years ago, when I was first a stay-at-home dad, my first born baby's full-time at-home parent, I came to understand very quickly that, in order to bring out the qualities that I wished to see in my daughter, it was necessary for me to demonstrate those qualities myself.

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I had no choice.

If I was to bring out my daughter's confidence, I had to be confident. To bring out her friendliness, I had to be friendly. If I wished for honesty from my daughter, I was to be honest myself; resilient if she was to be resilient, persistent if she was to be persistent. ...

Then, over the years, likewise with my son.

In the process of doing all this, I discover that I've grown as much as my children have.

That's *my* reward.

The Science of Getting Rich

My entire parenting philosophy is founded on *one* book written almost a hundred years ago – Wallace D. Wattles' timeless classic *The Science of Getting Rich*.

It's not about parenting, but, thanks to what it taught me, I'm a happy and successful parent anyway.

At least, I *know* I'm happy. You would have to ask my children about the 'successful' part. I think I'm doing alright.

Whether you want to follow in my footsteps and use the wisdom of *The Science of Getting Rich* as a 'parenting guide' - and why not? It worked for me – or you're more interested in what it may have to offer you in terms of its original and intended purpose (as I am more myself these days), I can do nothing other than to wholeheartedly recommend it.

I've read *dozens* of 'self-help', 'self-improvement' and 'success psychology' books over the past 25 years and *The Science of Getting Rich* is my personal favourite. It has a very special place in my life.

This is a book that everyone ought to read at least once. Indeed, if a copy of *The Science of Getting Rich* was in every school and public library in the world, the world would be a far better place.

The good news is that you can download a **FREE** copy of Wallace D. Wattles' timeless classic *right now* by clicking on this link:

[The Science of Getting Rich](#)

May it benefit you as much as it has benefited me.

With all my best wishes to you for happiness and success,

Bob

About the Author

Bob Collier is a Londoner who now lives in Canberra, Australia, with his wife Mary and their two wonderful children, Bronwyn and Patrick. He became a parent in 1985.

For all but three years since then, he has been primarily occupied as a 'stay-at-home dad'. He has more than eleven years experience, in total, of *full-time* 24/7 parenting.

Bob is the publisher of *Parental Intelligence*, a free monthly online newsletter, and has a special interest in what he likes to call 'real' education.

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<http://www.parental-intelligence.com>

My Top 20 Tips for New Parents

By Bob Collier

1. Be aware that how *you* were parented is a major factor in your choice of parenting style, one way or another. Whatever advice new parents may get from family, friends and parenting experts, we all refer back to our own childhood for our fundamental parenting ideas, whether consciously or not, either to recreate all the things we liked about it or to put right all the things that we disliked about it.
2. Think in terms of *successful* parenting rather than 'good' parenting. The concept of the 'good' parent was invented by the advertising industry to sell product by making parents feel guilty. Think in terms of success and you attach yourself firmly to your own objectives not somebody else's.
3. Strive for excellence rather than perfection. Perfect parenting is a myth. Why go on a crusade to find the Holy Grail when the opportunity to be the best you can be is right there in front of you?
4. Know yourself and *be* yourself. You're a role model. Make sure it's the real you your child looks up to not somebody you're pretending to be.
5. Have a clear idea of the kind of person you want your child to be. Always imagine the best for your child. Imagine your child as the happy and successful human being you would like them to be.
6. Stay constantly in touch with your child and the world they live in. This is a shared journey, whatever form it takes, so it'll help you to know a lot more about your child than their name and shoe size.
7. Always look for a balance between guiding your child and allowing them to discover their own path. If you overbalance, overbalance on the side of discovery – sometimes, doing nothing except just watching your child grow is the best parenting there is.
8. Learn something from every successful parent you can find. In fact, you can learn something from every parent. Even those who struggle generally may do some specific things better than you do.

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9. Adapt everything you learn to suit your personality, values, relationships and circumstances. This is you and your child. Your lives. Your world. Make your own decisions about what comes into it and how you use it.
10. Take nothing as gospel. If it works for you, use it; if it doesn't, don't. Test every bit of advice in the laboratory of your daily life and base your decisions on *direct observational experience*. If what the book tells you makes things worse, the book is *wrong!*
11. Be well informed *and* trust your intuition. Use your head to get the knowledge that will most efficiently guide your heart to where it wants to go.
12. Always remember that the right attitude is more valuable than the 'right' technique. Techniques are tools and like all tools they're dangerous in the wrong hands. An attitude of love will make the best use of whatever technique you use.
13. Be creative and willing to experiment. Every day you will find yourself somewhere you've never been before. You'll be alone in uncharted territory. A well developed ability to improvise is the key to success.
14. Be decisive. Making mistakes and correcting them is ultimately more efficient than agonising over getting it right first time – or, worse, being paralysed by a fear of getting it wrong.
15. Always remember that, generally speaking, a 'slow fix' will last a lot longer than a 'quick fix'. Sweeping a problem under the carpet in exchange for some peace and quiet will take the pressure off you and it's not a crime, but sooner or later you'll have to *so/ve* that problem. Unsolved problems grow into monsters that come back to haunt you.
16. Be relentlessly optimistic. Parenting can be tough at times, but the sun is always shining even when you don't see it. Really, it is.
17. Develop a great sense of humour. You'll be doing a lot of ridiculous things. Taking them seriously won't help you one little bit, but sharing the joke might!
18. Thrive on chaos! There will be plenty of it so you'll have lots of opportunity to practice. Learn to go with the flow. Some adults may not like it, but your child will love it and life will be on your side if you trust it enough.

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19. Accept that, no matter how successful you feel you are in your parenting, somebody somewhere will think you're a 'bad' parent. Who cares? Please yourself and your child.
20. Make working on your own personal development your *number one priority!* Parenting may appear a somewhat shapeless occupation to the undiscerning eye and easily lost amongst other considerations and, unlike the professions of, say, doctor, lawyer, banker or accountant, it's not governed by examinations and qualifications, rules and regulations, guilds and associations – but it truly *is* of vital importance, whatever else you're doing with your life. A willingness to learn how to be equal to the task is the very least you can offer.

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Please feel free to share this article with anyone you feel may benefit from reading it. I would greatly appreciate it if you would add the following information:

Bob Collier is a stay-at-home father of two, a home educator and publisher of *Parental Intelligence*, an online parenting newsletter. For great ideas about parenting and personal development from some of the brightest minds in the business, please visit his website at <http://www.parental-intelligence.com>