

# HIGH SCHOOL ROADS

by Teri Ebert

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## **Guidelines for a Parent and Child Covenant Regarding Education**

1. Express unconditional love for each other. Be clear as parents that our love for our children is not dependent upon their achievements. We rejoice in their achievements and in their goodness, but we love them no matter what. We do not love one child more than another because of his accomplishments. We appreciate each child's uniqueness.
2. Explain that we have specific obligations as parents, for which we will be held accountable before God. These are clearly set forth in "The Family, A Proclamation to the World." In our family, we believe that one of the ways we can fulfill these obligations is through helping our children to get a good education. This includes the responsibility to have regular communication with children, which we call "powwows."
3. Discuss the obligations of children. Our children have the responsibility to work through the requirements to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma. This includes participating in regular communication with parents.
4. Talk about the stewardship pattern, which provides for delegation of responsibility, choice, and accountability. Choose a regular time for "powwows," such as Sunday afternoons. The purposes of powwows are:
  - to have regular communication
  - to make plans together, including plenty of choices for the children
  - to monitor progress, including accountability from the children
  - to seek help from each other
  - to cheerfully receive assistance from each other.
5. Talk about your general beliefs related to high school education.  
General Beliefs Related to High School Education
  1. In our family, we define the purposes of education as:
    - to enable us to use our gifts to serve others,
    - to enable us to earn a living,
    - to strengthen our weaknesses, and
    - to enrich our lives.
  2. We strive to choose activities that have noble purposes, keeping in mind the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14) and the law of the harvest (Doctrine and Covenants 6:33).
  3. We seek to be well-rounded by balancing our activities.
  4. We believe that education is the work of children. We encourage our children to put their education first before employment, so that they will be able to obtain better jobs later. However, we also believe that work is good for character and encourage our children to look for work that is related to their interests.
  5. We encourage our children to learn a skill and a profession, so that they will have more than one area in which to earn a living.
  6. Our family believes in striving for excellence.
  7. We do not see ourselves as victims being controlled by others, but rather as a family working together in mutual appreciation and support.

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