

"Powerful, clear-eyed, beautifully written . . . *How Children Succeed* will change the way you think about children." —ALEX KOTLOWITZ

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

How CHILDREN SUCCEED



GRIT, CURIOSITY, *and the*
HIDDEN POWER *of* CHARACTER
PAUL TOUGH

Paul Tough

How Children Succeed



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“grit, personality, and curiosity matter even more than cognitive skills. and the stories of the kids they are trying to help—Drop the flashcards—“How Kids Succeed introduces us to a new generation of researchers and educators, who, for the very first time, are using the various tools of science to peel back again the mysteries of character. But in How Kids Succeed, Paul Difficult argues that the qualities that matter more have to do with personality: skills like perseverance, curiosity, optimism, and self-control. The story we usually tell about childhood and achievement may be the one about cleverness: success involves those that score highest on testing, from preschool admissions to SATs. Through their stories— A persuasive wake-up contact.”and do not— He uncovers the astonishing ways in which parents do—s lives.prepare their children for adulthood. And he provides us with new insights into how exactly to enhance the lives of children developing up in poverty.I learned so very much reading this book and I came away filled with hope approximately how we are able to make existence better for all sorts of kids.PeopleWhy do some kids succeed while others fail?Illuminates the extremes of American childhood: for rich children, a back-up drawn thus tight it’s a harness;SlateTough reveals how this brand-new knowledge can transform youthful people’—NY Moments“ This provocative and profoundly hopeful book will not only inspire and engage visitors, it will change our knowledge of childhood itself.”— for poor kids, almost nothing to break their fall.



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The power of early parenting, environment in cyclical poverty Following the footsteps of Jonathan Kozol, Paul Tough employs his significant storytelling abilities to help readers see and experience the plight of children, households and communities trapped in cycles of failure and poverty. His call is for all those with education and impact - the kinds of people who go through books like his - to show motivation and volition (two the different parts of character development he extols) to identify, celebrate, and nurture the type of children and families in poverty. Reading *How Children Succeed* led me to reconsider many of my preconceptions about what's best for kids, and on the way I learned a few things that I can use to help the people I work with succeed. I am unpleasant with comparing a person with the financial means and support to voluntarily give up school, knowing his family will be there as a back-up, to go play hooky, and a person living in poverty subjected to various exterior stresses, but has the capacity to possess the self control to focus and better themselves. The reason for that gap is usually neither merely poverty nor IQ, but a particular set of noncognitive skills including executive function and conscientiousness, which Tough calls "character." Kids who acquire these skills can break historic cyclical patterns of failing. Tough cites one study in which "early parental care predicted which learners would graduate even more reliably than IQ or achievement test ratings" (36). These skills are better predictors of academic performance and educational achievement than IQ and therefore a direct target of interventions. I would recommend to anyone interested in psychology. Brilliant and insightful This is an excellent book. "The result of good parenting is not just emotional or mental, the neuroscientists say; Here, too, Tough sees a ray of wish. Specifically, children who encounter high levels of stress however, not responsive and nurturing parents have problems with a range of lifelong health and mental health issues. However, "When moms scored high on actions of responsiveness, the impact of these environmental factors on the children appeared to almost disappear" (32).

Malleability of Personality and Intelligence=====Whereas IQ is hardly malleable, executive function and character strengths - specifically grit, self-control, zest, social cleverness, gratitude, optimism, curiosity and conscientiousness - are far more malleable. Perspective The info provides perspective as an image to the complete community. Of the 137 children in the analysis, 61% of these in the treatment group formed secure attachment by age 2, weighed against only 2% of the control group. Also if your child is successful in school, you can help them understand why. it really is biochemical" (28). I purchased this book in the past after a pal of mine who is a teacher recommended it if you ask me. The explanations of the studies mentioned were very clear without talking down to the reader, which is definitely always appreciated. His analysis will offend those who tend to blame poverty predominantly on the irresponsible choices of the indigent by showing just how effective the cyclical, environmental pressures are on children raised in these communities. It appears you either have grit or you don't. Tough displays compellingly that parents and kids in poverty can and perform overcome the powerful environmental forces of their communities - and that this is a beautiful and essential element of breaking cyclical poverty. *How Children Succeed* challenges some standard wisdom on causes of failure (poverty, instructor quality) and contends that nurturing personality in children and young adults is the key to achievement.

Graham Scharf Author, *The Apprenticeship of Being Human: As to why Early Childhood Parenting Matters to Everyone*[...] Really drops off following the first two chapters Paul Tough's book starts out with a few great chapters challenging the traditional thoughts of why children in poverty do not complete their education. So maybe there is something just a little off in a few descriptions, probably it's simply me, maybe be prepared to read the whole book if you're the type to move on when you don't like what's being said. In

light of the inequality which is definitely all over, our kids have to understand that the best opportunity they possess of a standard life possesses an education. But after these first couple of chapters, the reserve really falters. It's just like the book is a collection of essays or content on school reform, which are then tacked jointly loosely with this idea of character helping children succeed. I use it for myself and I'm able to pack 2-3 items in it. What do After all by contradictory data? In retrospect, I should have picked this reserve up previous because WOW. The publication does an excellent job talking about Grit and what this means to end up being "gritty", after scanning this book I finished up getting Angela Duckworth's book on "Grit" and now I am very in-tune with my student's and the types of vocabulary they make use of. And despite displaying how learning chess can show character skills like patience, perseverance, etc, the book also demonstrates that skills on the chess board do not necessarily translate to abilities in the classroom or in real life. Near the end of the publication, Tough actually admits that all of the studies that have identified what matters most in raising test scores and graduation rates of children surviving in poverty is normally misleading, because in reality nearly all improvements found by these innovative teaching strategies are found in children that are poor more than enough to be eligible for school meal plans, but not technically living below the poverty line. If you are a parent.. This is actually the argument in

brief:=====There exists in our society a troubling and developing achievement gap between the have and the have-nots. Ultimately, the hypothesis Tough proposed early in this book is contradicted by his afterwards chapters, and the issue of how all children can succeed is never answered. Implementation of the topic matter is this publication can be absent besides hugging your kids. The plastic is of resonable quaility. As a previous NYC Teaching Fellow who provides lived and worked in multiple communities of cyclical poverty, I'm convinced that Difficult has nailed some important pieces of breaking those cycles. My issues there have been calmed as the applications and specific situations were talked about further in subsequent chapters. These noncognitive skills are not all one needs, however they seem to be the least discussed ones. That is a great book for parents to learn, in particular if you are inclined to get into discussions about education policy with your peers. I will not assert that book will make you a expert, but it should result in some interesting dialogs (inner and external) which can only help you reconsider any idea you had that what worked for you in school was that right factor for your children. I find it slightly bit too little for me because I like to pack a number of various things and it only acommdates up to 3. Attachment and Lifelong

Wellness=====Tough sees two key areas of influence for those who look after those trapped in cycles of poverty. I'd recommede it to educators, parents and anyone with an interest in knowing why is some people thrive despiteaversity. I'm so happy I've read this publication. Very good bento box I ordered this box hoping to create lunches a little easier to pack. Overall it's very good. And while each chapter can be well researched and referenced, the cumulative result is a lot of contradictory data, no response to the question you want this book would solution: How do children succeed? Rethinking what's Important When listening to news insurance of education reform and speaking with parents and teachers one hears a variety of views in what "THE VERY BEST" method of education is. Great Read It certainly opened my eye as to why some people are more successful than others. Huge Enthusiast of Paul Tough and "How Kids Succeed"! Just mainly because early intervention with parents and small children yields wide ranging benefits for households in poverty, so personality interventions in adolescence can and do enable young adults encircled by cycles of poverty to learn self-control, perseverance and concentrate that are crucial for escaping the gravitational pull of their

communities. At the time, it appeared like a nice book for an airplane trip and I didn't pick it up until this year. Well, regardless of the premise that instructor quality does not matter very much, the book spends considerable time praising innovative teachers or teaching applications... it is amazing! It really is based by study and it is filled with information and anecdotes on specific schools which have demonstrated achievement with lower income students. These are traits that are easily formed in children growing up in stress free environments with a lot of parent attention and affection, but are missing in children developing up in poverty with disjointed families, drug abuse, and other styles of chronic stress. Despite giving research showing that ACT/SAT scores are not a good indicator of university graduation, he examines how some academic institutions have been successful in obtaining their poverty learners into schools by cramming them for the Take action tests. I was a lot more taken aback at how the charter schools are employing this information to help their students enter four-year schools. It's amazing that we have this information out there at our fingertips, yet very few parents and/or teachers have read this. Possibly the most upsetting point of the publication was close to the end when Tough (who was raised middle to upper middle income) tries to relate to the poverty students simply by describing the time he dropped out of Columbia his freshman year and using his tuition money to take a Kerouac-esque bicycle trip.. Rough uses this story to spell it out how this trip helped him take risks and build character traits that were not really formed in school, and how this helped him succeed. you need to learn this book right now.

Adolescent Character Formation=====Paul Tough highlights the task of college and support programs that intentionally focus on forming the type strength habits that enable kids to learn well in universities, form healthful relationships, and prevent the destructive decisions and behavior patterns modeled in their communities. Significantly, interventions that concentrate on promoting more powerful parent-child relationships in risky groups (including one where just 1 of 137 infants studied demonstrated protected attachment first) have shown promising effect. Understanding is paramount to development. A big picture strategy towards clearness and fulfillment. Where's the beef?, and got none. I read this reserve looking for helpful suggestions, advice, experiences, etc. I obtained this book to greatly help my children. There are a lot of real life examples of how children be successful and fail, but no "how exactly to". His function is simply as challenging to those that believe those trapped in cycles of poverty are mere victims of their environment who bear no responsibility for their decisions. The book does not tell you how exactly to foster achievement. Save your money. Great begin to my education reading adventures! I picked up this publication to get me started on understanding children, as I'm new to an education-related job and my coworkers seem to already know so much about why certain kids will be the way they are. This publication gave me some cool insights and connected to my own neuroscience studies with techniques I didn't expect.

WHY YOU NEED TO Read This Book=====Paul Tough is certainly tackling probably the most challenging - and contentious - problems of our period. The stories about children were engaging and relevant to the topic. Though, sometimes aspects of programs like KIPP appeared to be framed as positive when I didn't experience it was objective to do that as I worried for the kids. The argument is that these "non-cognitive" or "character skills" – things like grit, resilience, and resourcefulness, are often a better predictor of eventually success than mastery of academic skills. The essential premise student intelligence or teacher quality isn't near as essential as performance character traits, such as grit, executive function, self-control, optimism. I am transferred and motivated by my fresh knowledge. I anticipate my education studies even more! The first is secure early attachment to parents. Eye-Opener This book can be an unbiased

and honest discussion of how children succeed considering holistic childhood experiences with both extensive academic research and compelling first hand accounts.



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