

# Challenging Your Kids to Do Things for Themselves is NOT Bad Parenting

The Mistake Some Parents Make That Makes Their Kids Unable to Succeed In-spite of Adversity

In my 62 page White Paper titled "Schooling is a Means to an End, and Not an End in Itself", I noted that many of today's parents have been sold the dummy, that if they challenge their kids to do things for themselves, they would be BAD parents. Read this report to find out why this is a BIG mistake. It offers eye-opening insights that wise parents can use to empower their kids to become competent income earning adults in society early in life, with or without access to paid employment opportunities.

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Features Inspiring Anecdote About Nigerian Soccer Legend - Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha's - Childhood



In 2007, I wrote a 1,300 word article titled "How Exposure To Poverty & Trial-By-Fire Can Be Deliberately Used To Prepare People To Succeed"

(Read it at

*This was during my 4th year as an entrepreneur, after reflecting on my experiences trying to find success in self-employment, like I had done in paid employment, and before that, in formal schooling.*

In that article, I noted that some parents, who rose from lowly beginnings (of poverty and severe hardships) to achieve notable successes, sometimes vow they will never let their own kids suffer the way they (the parents) did.

*Now, in a sense this feeling is understandable, but as I explain in the rest of this article, allowing those sentiments to negatively influence your decision making about what you'll do for your kids can be a big mistake!*

**What made me write that "Trial by Fire" piece was the fact that my deep reflections and research had brought me to the realization that growing up in too comfortable an environment, where one's parents provided everything one needed, could be counter-productive.**

I recalled seeing kids who had to help their parents in the farms, or at the markets, to earn money needed for the family's upkeep - before and after school.

**Sometimes such kids go on to lose their parents and have to continue on their own - till they achieve success.**

*UK based business coach - Efe Ohwofasa – revealed in his book "UNLEASH YOURSELF™" that he hawked produce on the streets of Nigeria's Sapele for years, to support his mother and siblings while still attending secondary school.*

*His mother did not let this happen because she was a bad parent. She just could not do it all on her own.*

So Efe, especially since he was the eldest, naturally had to help her out.

But those seemingly negative circumstances created a powerful opportunity for the child in him, to rapidly develop valuable maturity that would ultimately lead him to become a successful adult.

*Today, Efe works as a respected business coach and consultant in Bournemouth, UK. And he readily points out that those early years of struggling with poverty equipped him with the never-say-die mental attitude which ultimately helped him succeed against all odds, in relocating to the UK, learning a new skill (coaching) and starting his own coaching business from the ground up.*



**In my 62 page White Paper titled "Schooling is a Means to an End, and Not an End in Itself", I noted that the currently accepted approach to parenting, that most adults follow today, is flawed.**

*Why? Because it makes us DO virtually everything for our kids, rather than provide them a platform to learn valuable life skills, and how to think for*

themselves and CHOOSE what they want to do, as early as possible in their lives. Many of today's parents have been sold the dummy, that if they challenge their kids to do things for themselves, they would be **BAD** parents.

I beg to disagree – and I do so not just from studying others who have gone before me, but also based on achievements I AM recording in parenting my own kids along these lines. **Like I pointed out in my White Paper, history attests to the fact that some of the most successful people in societies across the world came from poor backgrounds.**

Some grew up orphans, or if they had parents with them, had to deal with severe poverty because their parents could not afford to give them much! But *THAT atmosphere of inadequacy has a way of being a blessing in disguise for those in it, who are able to adopt the right mental attitude.*

Such persons will intelligently use those limitations as a stepping stone to create opportunities to succeed,

- That was what Efe Ohwofasa did.



It's also what Bamidele Onibalusi did (Read my latest newsletter issue at <https://tinyurl.com/sdn-tks-pii132> to learn how, despite losing his Dad at age 7, he was earning \$3 to 5K USD as a writer at age 16!

...And, believe it or not the magical Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha also did it!

**In my 1,300 word article on Trial By Fire, I mentioned that I once heard Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha being interviewed on a radio program on his birthday, responding to greetings of admiration from fans by revealing a shocking truth:**

He said, and I quote:



**"Jay-Jay Okocha or no Jay-Jay Okocha. All I know is Jay-Jay Okocha sold Oranges on the streets of Lagos"**

When he was uttering those words, it was hard to imagine that great man, with oranges arranged in a pan on his head, calling out "Buy orange!". But he had no such difficulty because it happened to him. He could REMEMBER that hawking experience - and the fact, that he had to go home to sleep back then, in one room, with his mother and sisters.

The rest of us only saw him from the outside. **The stuff that made him into the achieving genius on the outside, was on HIS INSIDES, in his mind - and it was what gave him the insatiable desire to make a better life for himself and his loved ones.** Even in success, he knew that THAT experience had made him what he had become - which was why he mentioned it!

## The Mistake Some Parents Who Succeeded by Overcoming Severe Adversity Make...



From reading Wole Soyinka's books, I know he started school at about age 7. But he also actually WORKED later as a student, and was quite independent of his parents. Today's Nigerian kids start MUCH MUCH (!) earlier than 7 years, and focus exclusively on studying while their parents provide till they graduate. Yet, NONE of them has become a Nobel Laureate – like Soyinka, who started late and had to work while still a student.



Burt Dubin dropped out of high school to work, so as to support his mother and siblings. Later, he returned to finish high school by attending night classes, while continuing to work during the day. Today, he's recognized globally as mentor of some of the world's highest paid speakers.



[A 70 year old granny who retired 10 years ago, after 3 successful decades as a teacher in leading schools](#) told me she got a job after completing her secondary education, in order to sponsor her younger brother's schooling. This was because her father, who had several wives, could not afford to send ALL the kids to school. So he sent the first born for each wife up to Secondary School level, and then tasked them to send their siblings.

**One thing is clear: The early responsibilities imposed on these individuals made them mature faster, into competent adults!**

*Today's parents however fail to see that challenging kids in this manner can empower them to succeed. In my Trial by Fire article I explain as follows.*

*Sadly, not all persons who overcame poverty to achieve great success realize the value of the exposure they had to that challenging situation. And that's why, like I said at the start of this piece, some feel the right thing to do would be to shield their kids away from such hardships, so they do not "suffer". The problem however is that in trying to make sure your kids do not "suffer", you may end up making them "weak" – by over protecting them.*

*As a result they could grow up incapable of withstanding challenges that life may throw at them in their bid to achieve their own goals. You need to realize that YOUR contact with poverty and its attendant hardships contributed significantly to making you capable of overcoming those challenges. If you really want to help your kids, you may need to seriously consider periodically exposing them to similar experiences in ways that will teach useful lessons they can draw upon later in life.*

Click the link below to read the full version of my 1,300 word article:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?How-Exposure-To-Poverty-and-Trial-By-Fire-Can-Be-Deliberately-Used-To-Prepare-People-To-Succeed&id=635958>



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## About Tayo K. Solagbade

As a Location Independent Multipreneur travelling slowly across West Africa, Tayo's unique ability as a bilingual service provider enables him relate successfully with clients/associates in English/French speaking societies e.g. Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, and Nigeria. He offers a unique range of Performance improvement talks, seminars and coaching programs for farmer groups, writers, clubs, parents and alumni associations - as well as persons in paid employment.

Since 2002, he has earned multiple streams of income providing individuals and organizations with personal development training and coaching, custom MS Excel-VB solutions, web marketing systems/web hosting, freelance writing services, and best practice extension support services (for farm business owners).

Tayo is the author of the Self-Development (SD) Bible™ & Livestock Feed Formulation Handbook at [www.lulu.com/sdaproducts](http://www.lulu.com/sdaproducts). He has delivered talks/papers to audiences in various groups and organizations, including the Centre for Management Development, University of Lagos, Corona Schools Trust Council (and all 6 Lagos branches), Adrao International Schools, Christ Baptist Church, Volunteer Corps, Tantalisers Fast Foods and others. In 2012 he was the invited Guest Speaker at the Centre for Entrepreneurship

Development's Annual Semester Entrepreneurial Lecture at Yaba College of Technology.

In a previous life, before leaving to become self-employed, Tayo served for 7 years (Oct. 1994 to Dec. 2001) as a high performing manager in Guinness. He rose from Shift Brewer to Training & Technical Development Manager, and later acted in senior roles as Production Manager and Technical Manager. When he's not amazing clients with his superhuman skills (wink), Tayo works as the creative force behind his Daily Self-Development Nuggets blog - on which he also publishes his Weekly Performance Improvement IDEAS (PII) newsletter.

He is an Associate Member of the UK based Institute & Guild of Brewing, a 1997 National Finalist of the Nigerian Institute of Management's (NIM) Young Managers' competition, a Certified Psychometric Test Administrator for Psytech UK, innovator of Spontaneous Coaching for Self-Development™ (SCfS-D™), and Founder of the Self-Development Academy. For a limited time, Tayo is available to speak to your group or organization for a moderate fee. Send e-mail to [tayo@tksola.com](mailto:tayo@tksola.com). Visit [www.tayosolagbade.com](http://www.tayosolagbade.com) to learn more.

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