



Raising Daughters

By Josh Schiering, Vice President / Executive Director of LINX and LINX / LX Summer Camps

As the father of three daughters (7th, 5th and 3rd grade), I want to make sure I raise them to value equality: equality at home, in school and in the workplace. I want my girls to think beyond the borders portrayed in books, on TV, in schools and in life. My girls will understand that the only limits they have, are the limits they set on themselves!

LIFE LESSONS:

So where do you begin? It begins with unconditional love. The love we all have for our children. We all naturally do everything in our power to help our children in life. We have to be careful, however, that when doing everything we can to help, we are not creating unrealistic expectations, or limitations that can define their existence. We have to train our girls to think and do for themselves.

12 Life Lessons to Remind Your Girls About

- *Think for yourself*
- *Do for yourself*
- *Be independent*
- *Work hard*
- *Help others*
- *See projects through to the end and never do anything halfway*
- *Do everything to the best of your ability*
- *Try new things*
- *Love yourself for who you are*
- *Know that you are good enough the way you are*
- *Don't bully, don't be bullied and don't tolerate the bullying of others*
- *It's okay to stumble, as long as you get up and run smarter and faster*

LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES

We must teach our daughters that failing is not the opposite of succeeding, but rather that it is required in order to succeed. Just the other day my youngest daughter Landyn came to me looking so sad. I asked her what was wrong and she said, "I got a letter from the teacher today." She retrieved the letter from her backpack, and sure enough, the teacher had written me a note that Landyn had been too chatty in class and that she did not listen when she was asked to stop. Landyn was certainly sad and remorseful. I explained to her that this behavior was not acceptable and that class time is the wrong time to socialize. I went on to share that not listening after being asked to stop is even more unacceptable. I had Landyn write an apology card to her teacher explaining what she had done wrong, and that it would not happen again. Landyn also lost privileges and was grounded from TV for a week. That night, after she brushed her teeth, I went in to tuck her in and whispered the following words into her ear as she lay there ready to go to sleep. "Landy, you made a mistake in school, but you are not defined by that mistake, we all make mistakes. We are defined by how we react to our mistakes." I went on to explain, "You have a chance to make it better starting tomorrow. Learn from this mistake and do better next time."

In summary: Landyn was spoken to about her behavior while also receiving consequences and a positive life message. This lesson, I

hope, will stay with her as she continues to grow and learn.

YOU CAN BE ANYTHING

I recently sat down with my three girls and asked them to share aloud as many jobs as they could think of. The list was short at first. You probably would not be surprised to hear that doctor, nurse, teacher, janitor and store clerk made the top five. It makes sense that the people they come in contact with the most, made the short list. I then pushed them to think harder and we got to a list of about 57 jobs (not bad)! But how many of these occupations are foreign to them and how many successful women have they encountered in these roles? Our lives are not set up to introduce our daughters to female role models who are successful business women, scientists, engineers, writers, artists, craftsmen, etc.

So, in my role as Executive Director of LINX Camps (an award winning summer day camp where my daughters attend), I have decided to do something about it! I am taking on this challenge for the sake of my girls and the community at large. At LINX Camps, we are pushed to be innovative and to support our community members through our youth services. While LINX Camps offer over 30 unique specialty, sport and general camp programs to meet the needs of each family member, I saw an opportunity to create something new and inspiring for our girls.

LINX CAMPS NEW PROGRAM: GIRLS ONLY

LINX Camps has reserved specific camp programs that are focused on developing the athleticism and leadership of the young women in our community.

The following programs will be led by female business leaders from a variety of industries:

- G.I.R.L. Power – Leadership training
- CIT (counselor in training) Leadership program
- The LINX Lions Den (entrepreneurship, project management and more – think TV show *Shark Tank* for kids!)

OTHER CAMPS FOR OUR DAUGHTERS

- Lacrosse Training Camp
- Softball Training Academy
- Volleyball Training Academy
- Gaming App Design
- OA Teen Trek'ers

FIND A ROLE MODEL AND BE A ROLE MODEL

I want my daughters to have strong, successful, smart and caring female role models in their lives. That's why I personally interview over 500 candidates to hire less than 40 people to join our staff each summer. You have to be the best of the best to get to work at LINX Camps. LINX Camps is dedicated to raising strong, independent critical thinkers and problem solvers. We want our girls to be leaders in academics, sports and business.

Josh Schiering is first and foremost a father of four. He prides himself on his professional accomplishments and declares that all of his decisions center on putting children first. Josh is also Vice President of LINX, LLC and the Executive Director of LINX Camps. Attending day camps since he was 5 years old, Josh has dedicated his life to creating bully-free and friendly-full environments in which children thrive. Recruiting, hiring and training over 150 staff per year, Josh is confident he can change our world one person at a time, but is happy he can do this on a larger scale! Josh's articles have been featured on a variety of blog sites, in colleges and published in the ACA National Camp Magazine. For more on Josh Schiering and LINX Camps visit www.linxcamps.com.