



## Encouraging Your Child In Their Pursuit Of Magic -A Half Dozen Ideas-

### 1. Listen

Listen to what they enjoy about magic so you can encourage that component. Is it performing, learning, practicing, reading or watching videos, the history of magic, the cool props, the friends they meet or something different? People are drawn to magic for so many different reasons. Once you find out what your child enjoys about magic you'll be in a better position to encourage their passion.

### 2. Ask If They Want Your Feedback

We all know that on any given day each of us are more open to feedback than on others. Even any moment of any day we're open to feedback than at another time that same day. When your child performs a trick for you, being respectful of the timing of your feedback might be just as important as the feedback itself.

### 3. Use Video To Create Feedback Opportunities

When your child wants to show you a trick, offer to video it on your phone. Then you can let him/her watch the video and give feedback to himself/herself from what they see. Oftentimes they will be harder on themselves than you'd ever be, and you'll actually need to step in and offer encouragement.

### 4. Balance Constructive Criticism With Encouragement

Experts encourage a ten to one ratio between constructive criticism and positive encouragement. Whether you agree with the numbers or not, we all have experiential evidence that positive reinforcement yields higher positive behavioral changes than negative criticism.

### 5. Understand The Stages Of Learning A Magic Trick

Not unlike learning any new skill, the learning of the *mechanics* precedes the finessing of the *presentation*. Know what stage of mastering the trick the child finds himself/herself and provide encouragement and guidance within that phase only. On the other hand, once the mechanics are mastered do encourage them to go on and work on a pleasing presentation to accompany the trick – turning it into a pleasant experience for the viewer.