PARENTING

Higher education can have a tremendous impact on an individual’s parenting knowledge, skills, and choices. The following list includes a few of the many reasons why college degrees can contribute to better parenting.

Children of college-educated parents are better prepared for school.

- Parents who earn college degrees tend to spend more time preparing their children for academic success by reading and doing homework with them; this better prepares children for reading and math at younger ages.
- One study reported that preschoolers whose parents held bachelor degrees (compared with high school diplomas) were twice as likely to recognize all of the letters of the alphabet.

Educated parents are more likely to be involved in their children’s educational activities.

- Parents with higher levels of education more often participate with their school-aged children in a variety of activities: going to libraries and museums; attending concerts, cultural events, and extracurricular activities; and participating in community, religious, and ethnic activities.
- Children of college-educated parents are more likely to develop a love for learning while young.

Educated parents are more likely to have healthier children.

- Educated mothers are more likely to give birth to healthier babies, since they are less likely to consume alcohol or smoke and more likely to receive prenatal care.
- More educated parents create healthy lifestyles for their children. For example, children living in households with college-educated adults are less likely to be obese.

College-educated parents tend to have college-educated children.

- Children whose parents are college educated enter and graduate from college in greater numbers and also have higher degree aspirations.
- Students of parents who have graduated from college are less than half as likely to withdraw before their second year.

Educated parents are more likely to be self-reliant and to provide for their families.

- Children of college-educated parents are more likely to be able to financially support themselves and their families.
- Educated individuals are better able to find jobs with increased autonomy and flexibility, this allows them more opportunities for family-friendly work schedules, arrangements, and locations.

When parents are college educated, they are typically more engaged in their children’s learning and education. It is also more likely their children will be healthier, better prepared for school, and will attend and graduate from college. Educated parents strengthen children, families, and communities. Pay it forward: get your education!

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