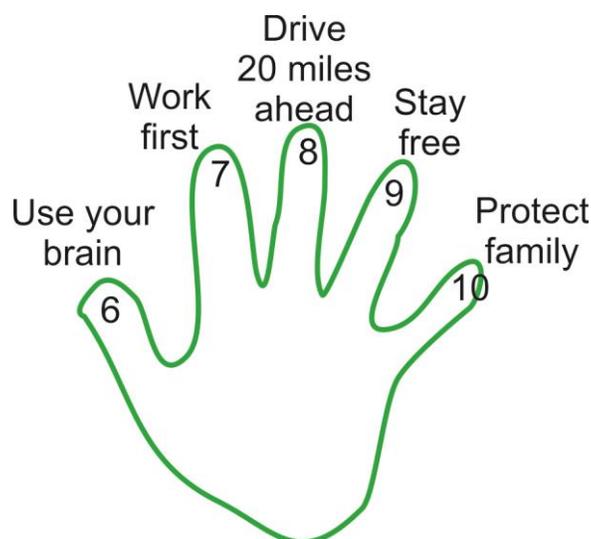


Someday I'll write the book. But in the meantime, I am officially copyrighting my intellectual property. This is the sequel to my previous book, "Give your kid a hand: The five qualities every child needs to be successful."

Give your kid the upper hand: The five *actions* every child should take to be successful™



After my sons developed the five *qualities* every kid needs to **be** successful, we helped them focus on five *actions* every kid should **do** to create success. These actions give any kid the upper hand in life—an advantage over life's challenges. These actions are appropriate regardless of background, race, ethnicity, gender, social group, wealth, religion, nationality, ability, or any other category one ascribes to a kid. As with the five qualities, there is a sequence to learning the actions.

6. **Use your brain.** Stay rational, apply logic, maintain only productive emotions.
7. **Work first.** Then you can play, reaping rewards while procrastinators panic. Be self-reliant.
8. **Drive 20 minutes ahead.** Be prepared, plan before you go, anticipate challenges, and learn the future from history.
9. **Stay free.** Defend liberty, stay out of debt, never try addictive substances, and elect leaders and laws that encourage individual choice.
10. **Protect family.** Choose a spouse whose goals align with your own. Choose a career that is family-friendly. Love your spouse. Build an eternal family.

As Jacob and Ben developed one action, we added the next.

It will take a lifetime to master this "handful" of actions, but, although each child is different, a reasonable goal would be for each quality to be established by the age that action becomes most relevant. A child approaching teenage years is flooded with emotions, so "Use your brain" offers important balance. A child moving up to high school faces the competing demands of more work and more personal control over how and when to do that work, so "Work first" helps them prioritize. Often around 16 years old a child is preparing to get a driver's license—and needing to make important decisions about the rest of his life—so "Drive 20 miles ahead" reminds them of long-term perspective. At 18 a child (now an adult) often is preparing to vote in public elections and live away from daily parental coaching, so "Stay free" reminds them of one big consequence of their choices. Finally, as the young adult begins to build a family of his own, "Protect family" guides the most important decisions he will ever make.

One could argue that there are many more actions a child should do to be successful—or that our “handful” doesn’t accurately define even the basic five. But for our children, these five actions form the base to which they could add or refine however they choose to.

As long as Jacob and Ben *Use your brain, Work first, Drive 20 miles ahead, Stay free, and Protect family*, we will consider them prepared for adulthood.

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NOTE: Wendy Harkness Beck is going to write her own book to add to this series. Her book says that if you take both hands from the first two books and fold those hands together, you remember to pray. That God is what makes all this possible, and that God’s plan for our happiness is what ties these qualities and actions into a full and successful life.