

How to Create a Family Mission Statement

Relationship expert Steven R. Covey ["The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families"; Golden Books, 1997] describes how to create a family's mission statement.

- Start by contemplating the mission of your own life
- Define your family
- Schedule a time to meet
- Write down what your family is all about
- Post it in a prominent place in your house
- Use it to stay on track

A key benefit of the process: each family member has a chance to contribute, to express their viewpoint in a non-confrontational way. The meetings are a time when each member has the full and undivided attention of the rest of the family.

And they both make another important point - a real benefit of the family mission statement process: the family mission statement becomes the guideline for making family decisions, for settling questions like how the family wants to spend its time and its money.

A family mission statement can create a deep sense of belonging, meaning and common purpose.

Creating a family mission statement is an excellent way to give the people you love a chance to be part of something bigger than themselves. Start today and update your vision as necessary.

Doing so will fill your heart with joy as you watch your children mature into caring human beings and pass this tradition on to their children.