

Article Three: The Family Influence

How critical is family influence for young people pursuing success?

Greetings! Welcome to the third article in the *Feature Series* from Peter Stephenson of uSucceed In Life ("uSucceed").

From birth we are all influenced to some degree by our parents, our brothers and sisters, as well as where and how we live. We learn by example and through observation. We are taught behaviours by our parents, being praised for good behaviour and reprimanded for bad. We mimic our siblings and sometimes we even challenge them.

While our surrounding neighbourhood, childcare, education, friends, teachers and lecturers also play a role in influencing us, perhaps the strongest source of early influence for a young person remains with the **Family Influence**, particularly the influence we receive from our parents.

So, what are the different 'types' of individuals who emerge as a result of family influence?

Type 1: Protégés

When the family influence is positive, it invariably shapes our values, attitudes, behaviour and work habits, which endure into later life. Where such positive Family Influence exists, I refer to young people who benefit from this as "**Protégés**".

According to my research audience of 100 successful world famous people, 65% of them when young were defined as Protégés.

Underpinning success in the influencing process is open two-way communication, and mutual trust and respect. Both the parent and the Protégé need to engage in the process proactively, the parent giving and the Protégé receiving and taking serious notice of the more general influence or specific advice they have received.

Type 2: Silverspoons

Some young people, albeit a minority, are born into families richly endowed with wealth and so called "upper-class". Experiencing a life of privilege from a very young age, these individuals main source of early influence may be from other sources beyond the direct control of their parents. I refer to these young people as "**Silverspoons**".

Provided that such external influence is of a high quality, often Silverspoons can develop into young people who think, respond and interact with the world around them effectively. External influences may come from nannies, teachers or other carers at private institutions.

My research indicates 18% of successful famous people were considered Silverspoons when young.

Type 3: Rebels

In a smaller number of cases, some young people exhibit far greater independent thought and action, breaking with established family customs, or even fighting against their parents, particularly when adverse conditions prevail. This seems to be the case, particularly when a young person is less loved, treated insensitively, seen as an inconvenience, or chastised by negative role models. These types of young people are "**Rebels**".

These behaviours can also occur when young people are micro-managed by overly perfectionist parents, or are distanced by inattentive workaholic parents where generally communication is shallow and unresponsive.

My research indicates 17% of successful people, nearly two in ten, were Rebels when young.

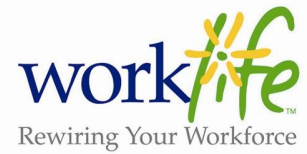
The implications of these findings for young people and their parents are profound.

- Just how do parents ensure their influence is truly positive and beneficial?
- What are the risks with Silverspoons?
- And how do you work with young Rebels, to increase their chances of surviving, let alone succeeding, in today's precarious youth employment market?



Feature Series

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For more information and advice, listen to my free audio-bites on these topics available at:

www.usucceedinlife.com/career-advice-by-parents

How To Make It Happen!

The uSucceed in Life website comprehensively examines Family Influence and an additional 11 key factors for life success for young people in the form of a Journey of self-reflection and discovery. In effect, it provides a break-through, short online course for young people seeking success. Go to www.usucceedinlife.com/career-advice for more information.

For parents, close friends or career counselors seeking to further help young people develop successfully, please visit or refer others to the uSucceed Research Report and Guide at www.usucceedinlife.com/career-development.

I look forward to your thoughts and comments.

Thanks and best regards, Peter.