



The Greatest Child Motivational Effort Of All Time

When Justin and Jeff were young, I came up with an idea before its time: forcing my prepubescent children to listen to Zig Ziglar motivational tapes while they were trapped in the backseat of the car. Jeff wasn't wild about that fatherly effort at inspiring his recalcitrant offspring. Justin absolutely despised it, just as he did being required to study vocabulary cards over dinner each night. But my young rebels were going to be fully qualified to eventually make it on their own, or I was going to die trying. (After months of mandated listening to Ziglar's twangy southern accent, I'm sure Justin wished I had.) In my defense, some of it must have sunk in, because he and his brother grew up to be A+ adults in every respect. Even so, Justin still suffers from Ziggy Derangement Syndrome. A few years ago on a business flight, he told an employee of Ziglar's corporation who was seated next to him, *I hated your boss 's guts when I was growing up*. If I had a do-over, would I force-feed motivational material to my pre-teen kids? You bet I would, and I cite one of the Zigster's most heralded quotes in that regard: "Some people say motivation doesn't last. Neither does bathing — that's why we recommend it daily."