

Management and Lessons from Life

There is a special delight in applying a concept or solution from a totally unrelated discipline or source to solve a problem or improve a process. As a result of my interest in a variety of subjects (possibly, the result of a wandering attention span), I have learned some valuable lessons about Home Healthcare management from some unlikely places. While I do not discourage traditional education by any means, there is much to be learned by the alert person in just “getting through the day” as well.

For instance, I have learned from playing the game of Chess that each playing piece has its own its own unique abilities. To reach your goal, you must anticipate your challenges to plan and orchestrate your moves to utilize each piece (or employee) appropriately, timely and within identified talents and limitations.

And there is much to learn from other sources also. See for yourself how you can apply these lessons from my life to the management of your agency:

- In an Astronomy class, I learned that change is occurring in all directions.
- Motherhood taught me the patience needed to develop others.
- From a home construction project I found out that if a foundation is solid, everything else could be changed or fixed.
- Applying makeup in the morning taught me to emphasize the positive.
- My experience with repairs to my car showed me that sometimes the smallest neglected piece can stop the whole machine.
- SCUBA lessons imparted upon me in a very real way the essence of non-verbal communication.
- Planning trips demonstrated to me that the shortest distance between two points is not always the best path to take.
- Almost daily my cat finds new ways to show me how curiosity keeps things interesting.
- A television program showed me the value and comfort in calling a friend for advice.
- On vacations, I discovered that the journey could be as enlightening as the destination.
- Classical music taught me to appeal to the higher human aspirations and maintain the pace. Remember that timing is everything.
- The game of Football has shown me how to anticipate emerging patterns and take advantage of opportunities to get the “ball” to the right place at the right time.
- Space Travel made me appreciate the desire to reach as far as my thoughts could go.
- In the Stock Market I saw where paying attention is what pays the biggest dividends.
- Technology taught me it seldom pays to sacrifice a better process for an easier one.
- My garden window showed me that a little dirt on the glass can keep you from seeing a lot of good things on the other side.

I suppose my most important management lesson came from observing others. Be it good or evil, genius innovation or conniving conspiracy, you generally find what you are looking for in this world. Look for the magnificent and not only will you be surprised how often and where you will discover it, others will see magnificence in you as well.

A well-rounded education in management is a never ending process. Never quit learning. Never stop questioning. Never cease applying lessons from one subject to another. Take a look out your window – what management lessons from life do you see?