

Working together has held families together throughout the ages. New research says it is the one **SURE** way to keep your little ones from ever spending time in Jail.

*A 40 year Harvard University study of hundreds of eight year olds showed that rich kids, poor kids, broken family kids and two parent kids had about the same rate of getting in trouble with the law. There was only one group who would almost certainly spend a lifetime free of prison. It was the group that **LIKED** to work, the kids who enjoyed doing a good job.*

The time to keep that in mind is when your three year old first wants to help. Let him. Three to five year olds learn very quickly. They can play musical instruments, even golf if taught patiently. A good place to start is cleaning chores. Tell your child where things are kept and then each day set the timer on the stove for 5-15 minutes and whistle while you work. **Make it fun. Enjoy!!! Whistle while you work.** If you have music tapes play them or make up songs. However you do it, do it together. Working together gives a sense of belonging. Assigning chores often has the opposite effect causing power struggles and bitterness. You want your child to enjoy work...make it fun and do it together. It really is the one thing that will keep him out of jail for life. **It might even keep him from being shot and killed at age 15 like one of my most dear students just two years ago.** Surely it is worth setting the timer on the stove and turning on the music.

Authors note: At one time we were going to call this page: FOUR TO FOURTEEN THE DEADLY JOURNEY. The reason was to shine a spotlight on the fact that it is the mistakes with our four year olds that determine who they are at fourteen. Do whistle while you work. If you have older children the process is even more important. Working together is one of the things most likely to give children a sense of belonging...a sense of family. **For more great resources for the children of divorce visit www.childrenafterdivorce.com.**