

SIX WAYS TO HELP UNDERACHIEVING STUDENTS

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Underachiever - somebody who performs less than might be expected, especially a student whose academic results are poor given his or her intelligence and aptitude

SIGNS OF UNDERACHIEVEMENT

- **Doesn't Respect Time Restraints**
- **Doesn't Practice Good Study Skills**
- **Doesn't Work Well Independently**

CAUSES OF UNDERACHIEVEMENT

- **Boredom**
- **Laziness**
- **“I Don’t Care”**
- **Physical Limitations**

EXCUSES OF UNDERACHIEVING STUDENTS

- **“I Don’t Understand”**
- **“I Forgot”**
- **“It’s Too Hard”**
- **“The Teacher Doesn’t Like Me”**

EXCUSES OF UNDERACHIEVING STUDENTS

God's plan is for every child to learn about Him and about the world He created.

There is a significant difference between a child who has the intellectual aptitude to make "A's" and one who has an excellent work ethic but struggles to make an "A" in any academic course

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Lack of Motivation

- **Not ability problem**
- **Lack willpower to get serious about learning**
- **Needs love and care by parents and teachers**
- **Encourage child to invest time and effort in school work**
- **Think of ways to motivate**

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Lack of Self-Confidence

- **Tend to criticize themselves**
- **Think they are doing their best, but actually doing just enough to get by**
- **Child needs to take responsibility for completing his school work**
- **Positive attitudes and encouragement at home and school build self-confidence**
- **Stay in contact with parents**

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Failure to Manage Time Wisely

- **Spend too much time avoiding school work**
- **Wastes time socializing**
- **Gives up on material that appears too difficult to learn**
- **Check they are using classroom time wisely**
- **Help students as needed with assignments**

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Absence of Challenging Academic Goals

- **Sets goals that can be met with minimal effort**
- **Set up a Parent-Teacher Meeting**

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Display of Rebellion

- **Parents value good grades and intentionally do poorly to get back at them**
- **Find a way to motivate child to learn**
- **Urge parents to spend more family time together**
- **Involve your child in extracurricular activities**
- **Need prayer and love**

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Lack of Interest in Some Subjects

- **Great grades in subject they like, poor grades in ones they dislike**
- **Emphasize value of strong work ethic**
- **Find ways to keep that student's interest**

Don't offer excuses for underachievement; all problems have solutions

Don't forget the spiritual side of underachievement

- **Quality time in prayer can warm a cold heart**
- **Encourage your student to do his best as unto the Lord**

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as
to the Lord, and not unto men.*

- Colossians 3:23

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