

how to train your dragon for kids

How to Train Your Dragon for Kids is not just a popular movie franchise; it's also an inspiring story that encourages creativity, friendship, and bravery. Teaching children about the themes from "How to Train Your Dragon" can be a fun and engaging experience. This article will explore various methods to help kids understand and embrace the values of the story while using their imagination to train their own dragons—albeit metaphorically.

The Themes of "How to Train Your Dragon"

Before diving into how to train your fictional dragon, it's essential to understand the themes present in the story.

1. Friendship

The bond between Hiccup and Toothless teaches kids the importance of friendship, trust, and loyalty. Children learn that true friendship often involves understanding and accepting differences.

2. Courage

Hiccup's journey is filled with moments requiring bravery. Teaching kids to confront their fears and take risks is vital for their personal growth.

3. Understanding and Compassion

The relationship between humans and dragons in the story emphasizes empathy. Kids learn that understanding others, even those who seem scary or different, can lead to strong partnerships.

How to Train Your Dragon: Activities for Kids

To help children grasp these themes better, consider engaging them in fun activities that resonate with the story. Here are some creative ideas:

1. Dragon Crafting

Creating dragon crafts can be a great way for kids to express their creativity.

- **Paper Dragons:** Use colored paper, scissors, and glue to create dragon figures. Kids can design their dragons with unique colors and patterns.

- **Dragon Puppets:** Using socks or paper bags, children can make dragon puppets they can play with later.
- **Clay Dragons:** Using air-dry clay, kids can sculpt their dragons, allowing for tactile learning and imaginative play.

2. Dragon Training Games

Transform playtime into a training ground for dragons.

1. **Obstacle Course:** Set up a backyard or indoor obstacle course where kids must guide their "dragons" (toys) through various challenges.
2. **Dragon Tag:** Play a game of tag where one child acts as the dragon and the others must avoid being caught.
3. **Treasure Hunt:** Organize a treasure hunt where children must find hidden "dragon eggs" (plastic eggs) filled with treats or toys.

3. Storytelling Sessions

Engage children's imaginations through storytelling.

- **Create Your Own Dragon Tales:** Encourage kids to invent their own dragon stories and share them with family or friends.
- **Read Aloud:** Read "How to Train Your Dragon" books together, discussing the characters and their journeys.
- **Story Dice:** Use story dice to inspire kids to create spontaneous dragon adventures.

Lessons from "How to Train Your Dragon"

In addition to fun activities, it's important to highlight the lessons that can be learned from the story. Here's how to discuss these lessons with kids:

1. Embracing Differences

Use examples from Hiccup's relationship with Toothless to explain the importance of accepting

others who are different from ourselves. Lead discussions on how our unique traits can contribute to friendships.

2. The Importance of Teamwork

Discuss how Hiccup and his friends work together to achieve their goals. Engage kids in group activities that require collaboration. This could be as simple as working together to create a large dragon mural or completing a puzzle.

3. Facing Fears

Talk about Hiccup's initial fear of dragons and how he overcame it. Encourage kids to share their fears and brainstorm ways to confront them. This could involve role-playing or developing a "fear-facing" plan.

Creativity and Imagination

One of the most enjoyable aspects of "How to Train Your Dragon" is the vibrant world of dragons and Vikings. Encourage your kids to unleash their creativity in the following ways:

1. Drawing and Painting

Promote artistic expression by having children draw their favorite dragon or create their own dragon designs. Provide them with various materials such as colored pencils, paints, or markers.

2. Writing Stories

Encourage kids to write short stories about their dragons and adventures. This activity can enhance their writing skills and foster creativity.

3. Role Play

Let children choose their favorite characters from the story and act out scenes. This type of imaginative play is critical for social development and helps kids understand character motivations and emotions.

Incorporating Technology

In today's digital age, technology can play a significant role in helping kids engage with the "How to Train Your Dragon" theme.

1. Educational Apps

There are various apps available that allow children to explore the world of dragons through games, puzzles, and storytelling. These can enhance their learning experience while still being entertaining.

2. Online Videos

YouTube and other platforms feature animated shorts and tutorials related to "How to Train Your Dragon." Watching these can inspire kids and deepen their understanding of the characters and themes.

3. Virtual Reality Experiences

If accessible, VR experiences can immerse kids in the world of dragons, allowing them to feel as though they are flying alongside Toothless.

Conclusion

Training your dragon, whether it's through crafts, games, or storytelling, can be an exciting journey for kids. The lessons learned from "How to Train Your Dragon" about friendship, courage, and compassion are invaluable. By engaging with the themes of the story, children can develop important life skills while having fun. So, gather your materials, unleash your creativity, and embark on this fantastical adventure together!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some fun activities to do while training a dragon?

You can create obstacle courses for your dragon to navigate, teach them tricks like rolling over or flying through hoops, and play fetch with dragon-safe toys to keep them engaged.

How can kids safely approach a dragon during training?

Always approach a dragon calmly and confidently. Start by allowing the dragon to get used to your presence, using treats to create positive associations before attempting any training.

What can I do if my dragon doesn't listen during training?

Be patient and try to understand your dragon's mood. Use treats as rewards for positive behavior, and keep training sessions short and fun to maintain their interest.

What types of dragons are best for kids to train?

Smaller, friendly dragon breeds like the Night Fury or the Monstrous Nightmare are often

recommended for kids, as they are playful and easier to manage.

How can storytelling enhance dragon training for kids?

Incorporating storytelling into training can help kids use their imagination, making the process more engaging. They can create scenarios where they and their dragon need to work together to overcome challenges.

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