Thoughts on the subject

Preschool through high school, music and games helped more than charts for my kids. Charts help my older kids stay on track, but games and music make it fun.

- Best way to motivate kids to do work- of any kind is find out what they want and use that as an incentive.
- Whenever there is a home fix it project my husband always involves the children, and doubles the amount of time allotted to complete the project.
- If I am to serve dinner to someone else, my children always help me prepare and deliver the food.
- I like to put my Elementary aged kids in charge. Let them think through how as a family we can complete a job, or task.
- We try to enjoy natural consequences. If they grow a garden they get to enjoy the food grown there. If they didn’t set the table, we wait as they do so we can eat. If they didn’t sort their laundry, their clothes don’t get washed. If they achieve a goal they get the reward.
- If they make everyone late for school, and it is too far for them to walk, I make them do an extra job for me because if I am forced to do an extra job for them by driving them to school then they owe me.

One of the treasures that work brings is perseverance. Don’t give up! I love the movie “Groundhog Day” because I feel that is how life is…each new day is the beginning of a fresh start. A “clean sheet” so to speak. Yesterday is in the past, what matters most is today. Don’t give up on yourself or your children. We’re not perfect, but if we work at it, that opens the way for change.

- We have been asked & taught to work since the beginning of time.
- Success in anything—careers, sports, talents, families, etc. comes from hard work
- Understanding that success means working hard, with integrity, to achieve your goals
- Being able to work hard is a blessing from our Heavenly Father
- Never give up
- Do your best
- As parents we’ve been blessed with to the opportunity to teach our children in all things including work.
- “[We’ll] be an instrument through whom the Holy Ghost can teach, testify, comfort, and inspire” our children...“If we prepare spiritually, the Holy Ghost will help us know what to do and say in our teaching. We can prepare ourselves by praying often, studying the scriptures, living the gospel, and being humble.” (True to the Faith page 169)
• We can teach our children about work by sharing stories & examples of ancestors, prophets and yourself working and helping others, showing them pictures of themselves working, play fun music to help them work, ask questions about why we work and let them ask you questions, provide opportunities for children to work and to serve; the best way to learn is by doing.

I would like to share a personal experience that I have had sense I was given the opportunity to help with this sharing station. One Saturday morning as I was praying for the Day and the children and I prayed or said the words “help me to teach them the value of work.” In an instant I thought of how work is a treasure or a privilege and that I am an instrument in the Lords hands. Children, and we are all Heavenly Fathers children, need work experiences to understand the value of work. When we have the proper perspective concepts are easier to grasp.

• I know that as we strive to listen to what our Heavenly Father wants us to teach our children and then to act upon those promptings, we will help our children grow to become the people our Heavenly Father wants them to be. We need to teach them through word and example. Each child is unique but through work and service each child will grow and feel their Heavenly Father’s love for them and for those around them.
• The children seem to be happier doing their chores when Dad or I are helping them with their chores. This gives us a chance to visit and teaching the children as we are with them.
• I have used a bunch of different motivation techniques on my children. There is no “one” right way to do it.
• Make work a fun thing to do.
• Teach them patience.
• One thing that really helps to keep my home clean and organized is that every item in my house has a home. If it doesn’t have a spot then it shouldn’t be in my home.

It’s work that helps us get to the treasure. The things we do are the dashes or footsteps on our path along the way to the treasure. And what is the treasure? Endless personal values and spiritual strength if we lead, guide, and walk beside our children.