

I noticed the Horizons table at a recent RDI conference in Houston and took some time to look at their products. The PARENT SUCCESS CARDS seemed novel, but I've never been a "Chicken-Soup for the Soul" person. I didn't see myself using them and figured they'd be an item that would sit on the shelf and collect dust. For some reason, I found myself back at the table that day and purchased the cards anyway. I figured I needed all the help I could get staying motivated, and even if the cards collected some dust they might come in handy someday.

That evening, my husband and I were at dinner talking about autism, RDI®, and some of the stresses we were having in our lives. The conversation was beginning to wear me down and I asked if we could change the subject. Neither of us could think of anything else to talk about. After a few moments of dumb silence, I began rummaging through my purse looking for a breath mint. I found the unopened package of Parent Success Cards in my purse and decided to open them. After glancing at them for a moment, I unfolded the deck in the direction of my husband and asked him to pick a card. The card he picked said, "I am an Apprentice". I asked, "Are you? " He said, "definitely". "How?," I asked, "and to whom". And the conversation began.

We engaged in a back and forth that lead us to realize we were not only apprentices to employers, parents, and the like, but also to each other, our son, our daughter, and especially to God. Our entire lives were about apprenticeship, and the opportunity for life growth required such. The conversation grew deeper and we were drawn into an intimacy we hadn't experienced in a long time. It was especially moving to explore the ways we are in apprenticeship to one another. We must have spent at least 20-30 minutes on that one card.

My husband picked up the deck and asked me to draw a card. Six cards later, the wait staff was wondering if we would E VER leave. We considered skipping the movie and continuing our discussion at the hotel. We decided there would be time for more card drawing over the next few weeks. We went to a late movie having deepened our understanding of one another and our relationship. It was one of the most memorable dates we've ever had.

We draw and discuss Parent Success Cards on a regular basis now. The cards have been such a blessing in our lives. They cause us to think more completely about not only RDI®, but our relationships, goals, purpose, general health and spiritual well being. They lead us into conversations that we might not have otherwise, and cause us to explore one another

and ourselves in a different light. When I bought the cards, I had no idea the impact they would have on me as a guide, apprentice, mother, friend, and, most especially, as a wife. Thank you for strengthening us not only as parent guides, but also for strengthening our marriage and lives in general.

Sincerely,
Thalia Seggelink