

The Creed of a Slave

"This idea that children won't learn without outside rewards and penalties, or in the debased jargon of the behaviorists, positive and negative reinforcements, usually becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. If we treat children long enough as if that were true, they will come to believe it is true. So many people have said to me, If we didn't make children do things, they wouldn't do anything. Even worse, they say, If I weren't made to do things, I wouldn't do anything. It is the creed of a slave."

~John Holt

