

# IDAHO DADS MATTER!

*A Specialty Publication by The Down To Earth Dad® Featuring Idaho Parents!*

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## The Always-Learning Dad

*...He Discovers New Things Daily*

PARMA—There's no secret formula for parenting; that's something Challen Sevy learned from being a dad and something he reminds his three boys about. "I always tell them, 'I've never been your dad before. This is the first time I've



ever done this. I'm going to make mistakes too because I don't have it all figured out.' I'm always learning with them, but I'm teaching them how to be good people and how to be good citizens." He attributes much of his parental inspiration to his wife, Crystalyn, who is the children's mom.

As he's grown as a parent, Challen has developed his own parenting philosophy. "It starts with learning to be good people and pointing out the consequences. The person that you want to be, try to teach your kids to be that person; that's a great starting place," he says.

"I think where I connect the most with the kids is teaching. If I'm fathering, if I'm being a dad, it's been the best moments."

Challen's sons, Charles and Challen Jr.,

join their dad doing yardwork. "Charles is more apt to come outside and help me," he says. "Caleb is always trying to help. If you have a shovel out setting a fence post, he's taking the level and moving materials."

Challen connects with nine-year-old Challen Jr. by finding times to talk. "Where I've connected the most with them is at the dinner table," he says. During these regular conversations, Challen discovers what's happening in their lives. "A lot of times it's an issue they've dealt with that they didn't even realize was a problem."

The family has recently discovered a new activity they can enjoy together even when every moment isn't picture-perfect. "We've had the most fun having weenie roasts," Challen says, "especially building a fire together." He doesn't stress when his kids fight verbally with each other. "Little arguments between the boys, I always love that. To me it's growing and kids being kids. I don't expect this Utopian perfect world, as long as they don't hurt each other."

Challen's advice to other parents is this: "Never think you have it all figured out. Never stop growing. Never be afraid to admit that you're wrong to your kids. And listen to your wife."

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**— Challen Sevy**