



Parent Engagement that makes a difference to a child's learning

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Research shows there are four key things parents/carers can do to support their child's learning. I have outlined these four key elements below:

Having High Expectations:

The research shows undeniably, that high parental expectations have the greatest impact on student achievement. Studies looking at teacher's perception of the positive attitude parents have toward their child's education, teacher, and school, was significantly related to increased academic performance, measured by both a standardized achievement test and teacher ratings of the child's classroom academic performance. Further, parent involvement was significantly related to academic performance above and beyond the impact of the child's intelligence (IQ).

Talking About School At Home:

Studies have shown that parents talking to their kids about school and school activities at home, had a greater impact on learning than monitoring homework, being home after school or limiting screen time.

Helping Students Develop A Positive Attitude And Good Work Habits:

As students get older, the impact parents can have on their child's academic achievement decline. Parents can't teach their children everything they need to know (the same goes for schools), but the habits they encourage at an early age, have long-lasting benefits, through to high school.

We highly recommend parents interacting with their children, rather than 'teaching' them.

Parents don't have to "teach" their children. Teachers focus on content, and parents can assist by helping their child develop a sense of personal competence, encouraging persistence, showing them how to plan and manage their time, handle distractions, and ask for help when they need it.

Reading With Children:

Parents make a major difference by reading and talking about books and stories with their children, in any language. Reading skills can be taught at school, and parents can help build a crucial foundation for successful literacy through conversation and reading together, which develops the motivation to read, a greater level of comprehension, and strong oral language skills.

To continue reading with your children over the Easter break you can:

- Find out times the local library is operating, and visit the public libraries in your area to borrow books
- Read with your child before bed to help your child unwind from the day's activities.

I wish all of our families a most relaxing Easter break in which you take time to have fun with your child/children.

"A turtle makes progress when it sticks its neck out". – Anonymous

Warmest Regards,

Kathy Cvitkovic

Assistant Principal (3-6 Learning Community)

Getting it right in English!

Fun Literacy activities for the holidays

The school holidays have crept up again. The weather is getting much warmer with sunny days ahead. We know many children (and teachers!) are looking forward to a nice break and getting outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. However, if you are after some other stimulating activities to keep children occupied, we encourage you to continue to build their literacy skills, ready for Term 4.

Enjoy the outdoors!

Make the most of the beautiful weather and take a picnic blanket to your local park. In between bouts of football or the playground, have some quiet time and encourage your children to read some well-loved or new books in the shade.



Visit your local library

Most local libraries often have some great activities on during the school holidays. It is also an opportunity to encourage children to continue reading at home, with engaging and interesting books they have chosen for themselves.



Games

There are some great board games that promote Literacy. Some of these include: Scattergories Junior, Celebrity Heads, Guess Who, Scrabble, Boggle, Pictionary Junior.



If your children are still learning to automatically read High Frequency Words, encourage them to play games with their siblings or friends such as SNAP!, Memory or Go Fish with these words. Ask your child's teacher for a copy of the cards.

Technology

Don't forget there are many great educational apps and programs that can be accessed on your children's electronic devices.

Ipad apps:



Red writing



Sock Puppets



Book Creator



www.heraldsun.com.au/kids-news



www.getepic.com/



www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

Sarah Marshall- Leading Teacher Literacy

A Word from Our School Vice Captains



Dear MWPS,

Last week we had House Colour Day and everyone put in lots of effort to succeed in each and every activity.

Photo Day was today and we hope everyone brought their best smile with them to school.

The School Fete is on Friday. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun. Bring your family and friends!

The school holidays are coming up, so please work hard in class so you can get ready for term 2.

We hope everyone has a great Easter break!



Samantha And Jackson.

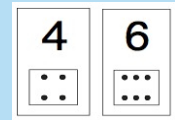
Marvellous Maths

MATHS GAMES TO PLAY WITH CARDS AND DICE

Dear Parents and guardians,

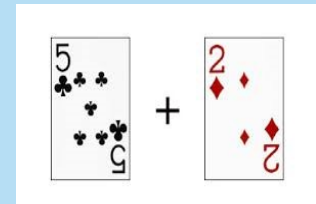
Maths games are a really easy and fun way to help your child learn some basic number facts. All you need is a pack of cards and some dice. Games such as Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, in fact any game with dice will help your child with their maths skills. Below are a few games you could try.

Biggest Number Wins



- You need a pack of cards with the picture cards and Aces removed.
- Each person turns over a card, reads out the number and the player with the largest number wins both cards.
- Can extend into two, three or more cards

Adding game



- You need a pack of cards with the picture cards and Ace removed.
- Turn over 2 cards.
- Add the 2 numbers together. Encourage strategies such as counting on
- Can be extended to two cards and encourage using place value to assist in calculating.

Subtracting Game

You need a pack of cards with the picture cards and Ace removed.

Turn over 2 cards.



What is the difference between the two cards. Encourage strategies such as counting on

Can be extended to two cards and encourage using place value to assist in calculating the difference.

Dice Games

- Roll the dice – how many more to 10 e. g. roll a 6 – need 4 more
- Roll the dice – double it
- Roll the dice – double it, add 1 more
- Roll the dice – double it , 1 less
- Roll the dice – multiply by 2, 5, 10.



Kind regards

Jennifer O'Connor

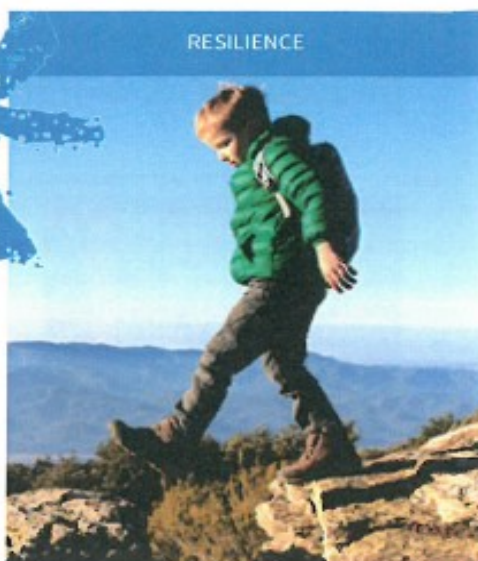
Assistant Principal P-2 Learning Community

parenting * ideas

insights



RESILIENCE



How independence-building is the pathway to your child's resilience

by Michael Grose

Parents and teachers often ask me how to build resilience in kids.

My response is always the same: "Start by building independence and resilience will follow."

Here's how.

Children are hardwired for independence

Some time around the age of fifteen months, give or take three months, most children will make a strong case for self-sufficiency. They demand to do things their own way. This demand is soon backed by a strong voice – "NOOOO!" – and then more articulate cries of "I can do it!" as their third birthday approaches.



This is the time to harness your child's push for independence and self-sufficiency. Their desire for independence and mastery over their immediate environment will see most children take incredible physical risks in the form of play and exploration of that environment. Concerned parents will naturally minimise risks by moving furniture around, keeping doors closed and hiding sharp implements, to name a few protective measures.

But parents can't eradicate all risks. Kids will fall and hurt themselves – but they'll also get up and go again. In time they'll learn to assess situations, stare down their fears and test themselves out in new situations. Falling down, brushing yourself off and trying again is part of the natural learning experience for most young children. Parents don't have to do much more than assess a situation for real dangers, then stand back and allow their kids to explore their environments, pulling them up only when their play and explorations transgress the rights and peace of others.

We're a Parenting Ideas school

parentingideas.com.au/schools

It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.



So what's this got to do with resilience?

Well, everything really. Independence is the pursuit of mastery over one's self and one's environment and rarely happens without mishaps and mistakes. It nearly always involves hurt, hardship, frustration and fear. That's where resilience comes in. Resilience is the art of bouncing forward after experiencing these hurts, hardships, frustrations and fears. Resilience is what comes from seeking out self-sufficiency and independence.

The language of independence

The fact that there's a whole genre of language devoted to resilience (mostly cloaked in cliché) is no accident. Terms such as "Get back on the bike/horse when you fall off", "Come on, brush yourself off and get on with it" or "What doesn't kill you makes you strong" are built into the psyche of past generations. Many parents today will cringe at these terms as they appear a little callous and out of touch. Conversely most current parents' relationship with risk and adventure – both required for independence-building – is very tenuous at best, non-existent at worst.

Therein lies the challenge. I haven't met a parent, carer or teacher who doesn't want the children in their care to develop resilience that will last a lifetime. Yet many of those same adults will block the pathway to children's resilience by over-indulging them, solving their problems and not giving them real responsibility. In doing so they deny kids the sense of mastery that comes from sorting out their own problems, getting themselves out of jams and getting up after a fall.

You can never love your children too much, but you can love them helplessly. That's what happens when we deny kids the opportunity to become truly independent and self-sufficient. Deny self-sufficiency and you block a child's resilience. Develop real independence and you open a pathway to resilience that will last a lifetime.

Find out how to develop real independence and resilience in your child in my latest book *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent kids*.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.