BIG FIVE Parenting Skill #3:

HOOKING KIDS ONTO LEARNING

Parent attitude to learning is a basic (building) block for children’s success at school. It helps to hook kids in at a young age.

New research from the Australian Council for Educational Research has found that students hook onto the notion of going to university in primary school. While I’m not advocating that school success necessarily equates to a tertiary education, this study shows how early children establish their own educational goals and expectations.

If a successful journey starts at home then what are the most important steps for bringing out the best in your child?

Here are five ideas to help your kids become great learners:

1. **Become involved and interested in your child’s pre-school or school life:** One of the predictors for children’s success at school is their parents’ level of engagement in their school. You can come engaged by attending school meetings & functions, reading newsletters, forming a relationship with your child’s teacher and supporting school activities at home. You may wish to adopt the school’s expectations/rules for home.

2. **Read with your child:** As literacy holds the key to almost all learning, the single most important, practical thing you can do to assist your child as a learner is to establish a reading household where kids see you reading; kids are read to; and kids read.

3. **Take a real interest in learning:** You want your kids to be lifelong learners as they will need to keep learning well after they have left school. Foster learning and curiosity by asking interesting questions, holding conversations, taking them to interesting places and modelling by learning new things yourself.

4. **Build self-confidence:** Kids with well-developed independence, social skills, organisational skills and resilience will thrive in the classroom. Shape the emotional climate for your kids for their maximum success by treating their mistakes as learning opportunities, giving them plenty of positive feedback and helping them identify what they are good at.

5. **Create a home study space and a routine:** When kids start school make sure you make a place for them to read and also a time to read. These space and routine concepts will change over time as kids develop different interests and their homework demands expand but it really helps to be thinking of them early in your child’s life.

I think the concept of developing kids as learners is a really important one and it can start at home.

Article by Michael Grose -

Courtesy of your Positive Behaviour Support Coach, Pamela Filer