TOPIC: Engaging and Supporting Families During Distance Learning

**Summary:** The expectation is not for families to replicate the classroom environment at home or exactly what would be happening during a normal school day. That is not possible. Instead, we wanted families to understand that their homes are already primed for wonderful learning to happen and that there are simple but meaningful changes they can make in their environment and routines to support their children’s learning. To this effect, we sent home resources for families to explore and a video we made describing these changes. Here is what we wanted families to know:

https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Engaging-and-Supporting-Families-During-Distance-Learning

TOPIC: Do Video Games Influence a Child’s Ability to Learn a New Skill?

**Summary:** I had an interesting observation today while playing with two of my children. Using blue plastic piping, PVC caps and some string we made the bow and arrows (which we had a lot of fun creating). We headed outdoors to test out the new devices. After two failed trials both of my children seemed super frustrated. This made me a tad frustrated. How did they expect to be good at something right away and especially archery? I gave a little “it takes practice” pep talk. Then my daughter states “but I am good at it on the Wii!” I continued to remind them that it required practice and they plodded on. After many trials, they were able to do it and they were extremely proud and quickly showed off their new talents to their older sisters. But, I am sure that had I not encouraged them to continue they would have given up….read more below


TOPIC: 8 Things Tweens and Teens Can Do INSTEAD of Social Media

**Summary:** Does your tween or teenager spend too much time on social media? Do they struggle when they watch as other teens go out with friends and they are home? Social media for developing brains and changing hormones is a bad combination. Here are 8 things tweens and teens can do INSTEAD of social media.

TOPIC: 50 Upper Middle Grade Books for ages 11-15

Summary: Are you looking for great upper middle grade books for your 11-15 year olds? Having a hard time?

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/upper-middle-grade-books/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: Fun Ways to Learn Geography

Summary: When geography is fun, then kids will retain the information and be able to grow into thoughtful, globally aware citizens who give back to their community and the planet!

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/fun-ways-to-learn-geography/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: 5 myths about race and kids that white parents must let go of

Summary: When it comes to race and kids, a lot of the conventional wisdom sounds logical. That’s how conventional wisdom works, right? Most white parents believe that kids are racially innocent and only learn prejudice if their parents say overtly racist things to them. We assume our kids don’t notice race unless its pointed out to them. But neither of those things is true

https://www.rebekahgienapp.com/race-and-kids/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: Supporting your Teen in Coronavirus

Summary: It’s been a stressful time all around the world as we deal with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the uncertainty it brings. Here are some resources to help you support your teenager through it all.

TOPIC: Teaching children while working from home: advice for working parents

Summary: With the ongoing coronavirus pandemic being thrust upon America’s working parents, because local schools are closed, the responsibility for educating their children is put in the parent(s) court as they have to homeschool their children. Dr. GG Weisenfeld of the National Institute for Early Education Research at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education has advice for parents simultaneously working from home and teaching their children, below are some questions that Weisenfeld was asked:

https://www.highlandnews.net/opinion/teaching-children-while-working-from-home-advice-for-working-parents/article_bcee1e16-74f6-11ea-bf98-d385fcd61356.html

TOPIC: Be honest with your kids says Carr-Gregg

Summary: How can you make children feel safe at the moment? Having an open, supportive discussion with your children can help them understand, cope and even make a positive contribution for others.


TOPIC: Music in their ears sharpens young minds, says report

Summary: Music education has benefits beyond teaching children to play instruments and sing – helping their academic achievement, sharpening their attentiveness and creativity and enhancing memory and fine motor skills.


TOPIC: The Case for Nagging Kids About Their Homework

Summary: The helicopter parent has crashed and burned. With millennials reaching adulthood it has become clear that this hovering style of parenting results in overly dependent young adults, plagued by depression or less satisfaction with their lives and anxiety, who cannot even face the workplace without the handholding their parents have led them to expect.

**TOPIC:** Four Myths about Parent Involvement in Middle School

**Summary:** Five or six different teachers. A labyrinth building. Lockers. New friends. Moving up to middle school can be overwhelming for parents and students alike. But it doesn’t have to be.


**TOPIC:** But What If I Don’t Know English?

**Summary:** Note: This article is targeted towards Spanish speakers, but the information can be adapted and applied to speakers of other languages. (This article is also available in Spanish.)

If your Spanish is a lot better than your English, then speak, read, and sing to your child in Spanish. Whether in English or Spanish, you can spend time reading, singing, and talking to your child every day. Doing so will increase your child’s ability to use language.

Would you like some ideas on how to build your child’s literacy skills? Click below to find out how to:


**TOPIC:** Adam Spencer wants to teach your kids to love maths.

**Summary:** Every week seems to bring another sad story about mathematics in Australia and especially women in mathematics. Falling rates of final years students doing maths, lower enrolments in physics at university and the truly bizarre and galling tampon ad that suggested the latest Libra product “absorbs more than you ever did in maths class” all paint a bleak picture. Well I’m proud to say I’m bringing up two girls, the elder of whom love maths and the younger of which seems well on the way.

TOPIC: Early Childhood Development: Understanding the Milestones

Summary: If you’ve ever spent time with young children, you already know they are amazing learners. Those little people scamper around, chattering and learning at what seems to be a hundred miles per hour. Young children absorb information and learn in many different ways all at once.

https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/early-childhood-development/

TOPIC: Breaking through bias with Parent/Teacher Home Visits

Summary: Two white middle school teachers walk up to a student’s home in Saint Paul, Minn. The community they are visiting is reflective of their school community: high poverty and primarily families of color. Though the teachers have taught here for years, this is their first time entering a home in this neighborhood.

https://aftvoices.org/breaking-through-bias-with-parent-teacher-home-visits-a46142f27c1#.h3h6u5hmr

TOPIC: 10 things families can do today to engage in learning

Summary: Simple and fun way to learn more below – please click on the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=O5j8GXAnkmw&app=desktop

TOPIC: How to help children overcome shyness

Summary: Kids are the focus of joy and activity! Parents like to make plans and perspectives, watching their charming baby grow into a mischievous child and, gradually, into a sociable, enthusiastic student. However, it may happen that your baby is not very sociable, avoiding social events and prone to loneliness. Many children are shy and exhibit the features of introverts. If your child shows the characteristics of such personality traits, you should not worry about it. To tactfully cope with this situation, you need only a little understanding and acceptance.

https://creatingalearningenvironment.com/?p=213
TOPIC: 4 Ways to Improve Parent Involvement at Your School

Summary: Engaging your students’ parents these days is actually easier than ever, thanks to the many channels at your fingertips – and theirs. In this article, I want to review those channels and encourage you and your fellow school administrators and teachers to start making the most of the variety of communication channels that can improve parent involvement at your school.


TOPIC: Booze and the Leaving: Five tips for parents, five tips for teens

Summary: Parents with children who are expecting their Leaving Cert results on Wednesday should talk to their offspring about the risks associated with alcohol before the big day, a leading alcohol charity has said.


TOPIC: Parent-teacher conferences get new look

Summary: MENASHA - Imagine adults sitting at desks built for third-graders — their knees hitting the bottom of the desks, their long legs jutting out from underneath them.

That was the scene last week in Mary Zelhofer’s third-grade classroom at Butte des Morts Elementary School for the second Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting.

The team-style meetings replaced parent-teacher conferences this year, thanks to a grant the school received from the state Department of Public Instruction.


TOPIC: Helping Kids Deal with the Stress of the Test

Summary: There is no predicting what particular worries your child will have or develop. But testing time can be a common time of anxiety for parents, teachers and students alike. In fact, because there are pressures on teachers to prepare students for tests, students can pick up on their teacher’s anxiety and feel even more worried experiencing the emotional contagion to which we are all susceptible. So it’s worth looking at ourselves
from a bird’s eye view and asking, “How do I talk and act when it’s test-taking preparation time?”


**TOPIC: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

**Summary:** These meetings affect all students, but in my experience, they matter the most to those from low-to-middle class families.


**TOPIC: The Importance Of Telling “Family Stories”**

**Summary:** Over the last 25 years, a small canon of research on family storytelling shows that when parents share more family stories with their children—especially when they tell those stories in a detailed and responsive way—their children benefit in a host of ways.

https://engagingparentsinschool.edublogs.org/2013/12/09/the-importance-of-telling-family-stories/

**TOPIC: The Best Resources On Parent Engagement In Countries Other Than The U.S.**

**Summary:** I’ve written quite a few posts about parent engagement in countries other than the United States, and decided to bring together the best resources into one list. You can see all my parent engagement-related “The Best” lists here.


**TOPIC: Infographic: “How parents can help with spelling”**

**Summary:** Colourful infographic on how parents can help with spelling.
TOPIC: Infographic on the Importance of Reading at Home
Summary: See infographic here about why you should read aloud with your child.

TOPIC: How parents can maximize their time with the teacher
Summary: Teachers and advocates say parents who prepare for school conferences stand the best chance of building a positive and productive relationship with their child’s teacher. Research also shows that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student’s educational success.

TOPIC: “How to Increase Parental Engagement in Urban Education”
“How to Increase Parental Engagement in Urban Education”
Summary: Here are six pieces of advice to parents about how they can help their child.
https://engagingparentsinschool.edublogs.org/2014/02/02/how-to-increase-parental-engagement-in-urban-education/

TOPIC: 8 Positive Strategies for Guiding Your Child Through Their Teenage Years
Summary: As children enter their teen years, they need to adapt in several ways. So too do their parents. Teenagers assert their independence since it is an important part of their journey to adulthood but they still need their parents to play an active role in their lives.
https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2019/09/19/8-positive-strategies-for-guiding-your-child-through-their-teenage-years/
TOPIC: FRUSTRATIONS OVER HOMEWORK? PRACTICE THIS COPING STRATEGY...

**Summary:** Children of all ages will experience frustration during homework time. And because we want our children to succeed, our reaction to that frustration might be “oh, come on, you can do it” and also, “dig in, don’t give up, keep going!” But when a child is truly feeling stuck, they may begin to spin their mental wheels getting nowhere. This can lead to a long night of parent-child battles as a parent moves from encouragement to insistence.

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2019/10/08/frustrations-over-homework-practice-this-coping-strategy

TOPIC: How to Hear "Me, Me, Me" Less and Teach Young Kids to Give

**Summary:** Extend generosity to strangers. In order for children to learn that they are a part of a greater community, they need a role in contributing to it.


TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING ANGER AND TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

**Summary:** Young children, as they begin the negotiations of playing with others, particularly in preschool and kindergarten, get angry and frustrated but are unsure how to manage their feelings. It’s common for children to lash out or run away or melt down in a puddle of angry tears. In addition to not knowing how to handle their big feelings, the upset can be compounded by the fact that they do not yet have the emotional vocabulary at the ready to clearly articulate what they are experiencing. In considering how to teach young children how to manage anger, it helps to combat some myths or misperceptions about this sometimes feared, and often avoided emotion.

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2017/03/16/understanding-anger-and-teaching-young-children-how-to-deal-with-it/
TOPIC: COACHING – A TOOL FOR RAISING CONFIDENT KIDS

Summary: Coaching can be a powerful way to help our children become more self-aware, understanding their thoughts and feelings and how they impact their behavior choices. It can also give them valuable practice in problem-solving and responsible decision making.

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2017/07/13/coaching-a-tool-for-raising-confident-kids/

TOPIC: THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Summary: There are moments in our lives when we feel like bursting with love for our kids – when we see their sweet faces poke out from their blankets just before going to sleep at night or when we see their faces light up at the discovery of a bug under a rock. But how do we express our love through our words?


TOPIC: EXPLORING NATURE WITH CHILDREN AT VARYING AGES AND STAGES

Summary: There’s strong evidence that points to a range of benefits for children who get outside and play. In schools, teachers have worried that taking kids outside will result in misbehaviors and a lack of control. But when they’ve tried it out, such as leading students through a park while creating field journals or tending a community garden, they have found just the opposite. Students were more engaged and held greater focus on the learning taking place.


TOPIC: Getting Back In A School Routine At Every Age

Summary: As seasoned parents know, preparing our kids to go back to school goes beyond bringing out the backpacks and checking off a list of school supplies. The real challenge comes when we have to replace lazy afternoons in the sun with homework help and late-night bonfires with an earlier bedtime. But the new schedule doesn’t have to be a battle. Whether you have toddler starting school for the first time or a teen who’s entering their final year of high school, here’s how to restore routines (and hopefully, some peace).

**TOPIC: Ways in which Parents can help with Math**

**Summary:** easy chart full of fun suggestions


**TOPIC: Playing a Harmonious Duet: How Parents and Teachers Can Practically Connect Around our Children’s Learning**

**Summary:** Parents are more involved in their child’s education than ever before. In 2016, 89% of parents, grades K-12 attended a general parent meeting as compared to only 72% ten years ago. Additionally, 43% of parents took the next step and volunteered in school as compared to only 39% in 1996. Research confirms that the best predictor of a students’ academic success is parent involvement. Clearly, many parents understand that their role is critical and are increasingly becoming more involved.

Considering the importance of your role in your child’s education, why wait for a teacher to get in touch to begin the relationship?


**TOPIC: What the research says about the best way to engage parents (GET- Guaranteed Education Teams)**

**Summary:** The evening event was not the classic school fundraiser or social. No one from the PTA begged for donations; the kids didn’t dance across the stage in costumes. The goal was to connect with busy families in a more meaningful way: showing parents what’s happening in the classroom and, critically, how they can support learning at home.

**TOPIC:** Family Engagement a Key Factor in Childhood Education

**Summary:** Family engagement in early childhood education can have significant and beneficial impacts on a child.

Early childhood development and education is the foundation for any child. Children will be better prepared for school. This helps progress their mental capabilities as they understand that learning is part of life. Parental involvement in a child’s early developmental years can be a turning point.

Interested to know more, read here: [https://www.longislandpress.com/2019/03/28/family-engagement-a-key-factor-in-childhood-education/](https://www.longislandpress.com/2019/03/28/family-engagement-a-key-factor-in-childhood-education/)

**TOPIC:** MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS THAT ADDRESS ADDICTION AND ALCOHOLISM

**Summary:** Some parents and educators may assert that addiction and alcoholism are inappropriate topics for children’s books. I strongly disagree. Books are an excellent way for kids to encounter tough subjects like addiction, mental illness and divorce. This list of middle grade books about addiction and its effect on the lives of individuals and communities is a good resource if you are looking for a way to start a conversation with your kids.

[https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/middle-grade-books-that-address-addiction-and-alcoholism/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808](https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/middle-grade-books-that-address-addiction-and-alcoholism/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808)

**TOPIC:** CHILDREN’S BOOKS ABOUT RESILIENCE

**Summary:** You’ve heard the expression, “children are resilient,” and while that may be true, their resilience depends on the loving support of those around them who can help them learn to navigate tough times. These children’s books about resilience are good tools to help you teach your kids the skills they need to draw upon their inner strength in times of adversity.

[https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-about-resilience/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808](https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-about-resilience/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808)
TOPIC: MOVIES BASED ON CHILDREN’S BOOKS FOR FAMILIES WITH TWEENS

Summary: What are some great films based on children’s books that families with tweens will enjoy? Besides Harry Potter, that is. Look no further than this list of movies that even parents of 8-12 year olds will find entertaining.

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/movies-based-on-childrens-books/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: PICTURE BOOKS ABOUT WOMEN IN HISTORY

Summary: Want to read some good picture book biographies of women in history? You’ve come to the right place. This book list of books about famous women (and some not-famous-but-should be) are the perfect way to inspire your children: both girls and boys!

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/women-in-history-best-books-for-kids/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: 8 WAYS TO USE POETRY TO CALM YOUR KIDS AND BRING JOY TO YOUR DAILY LIFE

Summary: The following are 8 ways poetry has improved our lives, acted as a calming activity, and helped the kids to stay focused:

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/poetry-calm-kids-joy-life/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: RETRO CRAFTS FOR KIDS THAT ARE STILL SUPER COOL

Summary: Who needs new-fangled ideas when your kids will love these retro crafts that have stood the test of time for suppling hours of entertainment and offer apple opportunity for creativity! And they are perfect indoor activities for tweens when they complain of boredom!

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/retro-crafts-for-kids/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808
TOPIC: CELEBRATING EARTH DAY — CONNECTING WITH OUR KIDS BY EXPLORING NATURE TOGETHER

**Summary:** There’s strong evidence that points to a range of benefits for children who get outside and play. In schools, teachers have worried that taking kids outside will result in misbehaviors and a lack of control. But when they’ve tried it out, such as leading students through a park while creating field journals or tending a community garden, they found just the opposite. Students were more engaged and held greater focus on the learning taking place. And for families, there are significant benefits for discovering nature together.


TOPIC: Families, Food, and Children’s Social and Emotional Development

**Summary:** Food is a daily part of our experience with our children. It serves as the convener at every holiday, social occasion, and meaningful event. Food is inextricably linked to our children's social and emotional development contributing to a sense of belonging, connection, well-being, security and nourishment. Because food is such a consistent presence in our family life, we have an opportunity to influence our children’s healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Watch here some experts who discuss this topic fully-

YouTube/ Interview approximately 42 minutes long use the link below:

[https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/screen-shot-2020-03-05-at-8.46.13-am.png](https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/screen-shot-2020-03-05-at-8.46.13-am.png)

TOPIC: 10 INDOOR ACTIVE ART PROJECTS FOR KIDS

**Summary:** The great thing about these art projects, unlike many active art activities is that they can all easily be done indoors, with minimal mess

[https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/indoor-active-art-projects-kids/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808](https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/indoor-active-art-projects-kids/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808)
TOPIC: What teachers wish parents would do

Summary: I want to address a group of people who have way more influence on the education of children than they think they have — parents. A number of years ago, I read an article from the NEA’s Family-School-Community Partnership Training that outlined “Ten Things That Teachers Want Parents to Do.” This wish list deserves repeating.


TOPIC: - Getting to Know your Teacher, Getting to Know your Student’s Family

Summary: Here’s are Two Simple Tools to Help You Get to Know Your Teachers or Parents!

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2019/08/27/getting-to-know-your-teacher-getting-to-know-your-students-family/

TOPIC: - Reading to infants benefits both baby and adult, new research finds

Summary:

- Infants aged 1-3 are less likely to be disruptive or hyperactive when they’re read to regularly.
- Parents that read to their toddlers are less likely to exhibit harsh behaviour toward their children.
- Regular reading provides not only "academic but emotional benefits that can help bolster the child's success in school and beyond."

To know more please use this link: https://bigthink.com/mind-brain/reading-to-babies
TOPIC: CHILDREN’S BOOKS FOR 9-13 YEAR OLDS THAT ADDRESS MENTAL ILLNESS

Summary: Mental illness, although slowly becoming a more acceptable topic, is still stigmatized. In the United States almost 1 in 5 people live with some form of mental illness so you can imagine how many children either struggle themselves, or have a parent suffering from mental illness. That’s why this list of middle grade novels about mental illness is so important!

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/mental-illness-childrens-books/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: CHILDREN’S BOOKS ABOUT DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Summary: Reading books about divorce can help kids find the words to talk about their feelings, whether it be anxiety, fear, or hope that a bad situation will get better. This list of books contains picture books about divorce as well as beginning chapter, and middle grade books.

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-divorce-separation/?ck_subscriber_id=286904808

TOPIC: Please Just Say You Are Proud of Me

Summary: As children across the country return to school, many for what will be the final run-up to their end of year exams, new research points to four simple conversation tips which parents can use to help their kids do better at school.

Discover more here with this link: https://www.aracy.org.au/publications-resources/area?command=record&id=292

TOPIC: Here’s what teachers look for when kids start school

Summary: Many parents believe teaching their child to read is the best way to get them ready to start school, but teachers often disagree. Teachers generally consider it more important for children to know how to regulate their emotions, be confident in their abilities and be curious learners.

Topic: A 'million word gap' for children who aren't read to at home

Summary: Young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to, a new study found. This ‘million word gap’ could be one key in explaining differences in vocabulary and reading development.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190404074947.htm

TOPIC: How Can Parents Support their Children through the Anxiety that Comes with the New School Year and Build Strength, Resilience, and Confidence?

Summary: Whether its anxiety over a brand new teacher who is strict with his classroom rules, or brand new classes with high expectations for performance, or new extracurriculars like trying out for the few slots left on the soccer team, the beginning of the school year brings lots of opportunities for new experiences, environments, and relationships and our children and teens feel all of the fears that go along with that newness.

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2019/09/05/big-worries-small-experiments/

TOPIC: Ten questions for your next parent–teacher interview

Summary: Make the most of your time with your child’s teacher. At the following link is a worksheet with 10 suggested questions to help you plan your time for your next parent-teacher interview.

See the worksheet at this link

TOPIC: Growing Your Child’s Learning Muscles

Summary: Your child is learning from you all the time – and the way you talk about learning can help make them even smarter.
Our (parents) attitudes about learning – called “mindsets” – have a profound impact on how our children learn, their attitudes about making mistakes, and their self-confidence. A positive “growth mindset” will help your child succeed in the classroom and in life.

Here are some quick questions and resources to help you learn about growth mindsets – the name researchers use for the idea that hard work leads to success.

See this link for more information.

**TOPIC: Science says most successful kids have parents who do these 5 things**

Nobody ever said being a parent was easy. Raising kids who do well in the world doesn’t happen on its own, and even when you do everything right, things can go wrong. But it certainly helps to know what you can do to increase the chances that your children take the paths that lead to health and happiness. Here are several things researchers have found parents of successful kids do differently.

Read more here: [https://www.inc.com/christina-desmarais/science-says-most-successful-kids-have-parents-who-do-these-5-things_1.html](https://www.inc.com/christina-desmarais/science-says-most-successful-kids-have-parents-who-do-these-5-things_1.html)

**TOPIC: Close to home: how many books do you have?**

**Summary:** If you are a parent, you might consider taking a count of the number of books you have in your home. Sound trivial?

It’s not. A 20-year study by a University of Nevada, Reno associate professor recently found that the number of books in a home has shown to raise the educational level of children in the home.

See this link for more information:


**TOPIC: Simple Calming Strategies for you and your kids**

**Summary:** This video short from the NBC Parent Toolkit shows how simple it can be to incorporate calming strategies into your life and your children’s to benefit all in your family. Maurice Elias, Social and Emotional Learning Expert at Rutgers University helped prepare this video. Check it out and in addition, there are some helpful ways to remind yourself to use calming strategies.
See this link for more information:
https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2015/10/08/simple-calming-strategies-for-you-and-your-kids/

**TOPIC: Watch D.O.G.S – Dads of great students program**

**Summary:** Here’s a great video of a program currently in the States called Watch D.O.G.S. The purpose of the program is to engage fathers in education at school.

See this link for more information:

**TOPIC: STOP. THINK. GO! Practicing problem solving**

**Summary:** Sibling rivalry is a common family problem. Mum could fix it. Or she could help her children learn valuable skills in problem-solving. These opportunities for practicing critical life skills happen daily if you look for them. Roger Weissberg developed the Traffic Light Model with colleagues at Yale University to promote problem-solving between students in schools, it was also used for discipline purposes.

You too can use this as a discipline tool in your home.

See this link for more information:

**TOPIC: How much should parents do at home to engage with their child’s education? (Radio interview)**

**Summary:** This is a great tool for parents and principals to create conversation about Parent Engagement. In 2017 the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) held “the most comprehensive conference on parent engagement ever held.” The Queensland P&F Federation was heavily involved.

This radio interview is about the conference and asks “why is parent engagement such a hot button issue?” Part of the answer is that parents are an untapped resource but are one of the best ways to improve the academic performance of young people.
TOPIC: Letting Go, Staying Close – Strategies for parent involvement in school during the teenage years

Summary: New research is showing that parental involvement during the teenage years is still essential. It’s just different — like so much else about parenting in adolescence.

Professor Nancy Hill of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and colleagues of the University of Pittsburgh are among the first researchers to explore how family dynamics during adolescence reshape parental involvement in education. What Hill and her colleagues found is that even though communication between home and school declines in middle and high school, another kind of age-appropriate parental involvement becomes important — what they refer to as “academic socialization.”

Parents’ use of new strategies during these years — especially efforts to link education to future success, to scaffold their teens’ independence, and to provide structure at home — staves off all manner of problems, including declines in GPA, negative behaviour at school, and depressive symptoms across high school.

See this link for more information:
https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/05/letting-go-staying-close

TOPIC: Parent Involvement Policy – an example from a school

Summary: This is a real example of a four part plan for implementing parent engagement in a school. See this link for more information:

TOPIC: Parents aren’t teachers, they’re parents

Summary: Almost all parents are ready, willing and able to influence something that really matters to their children’s success: the quality of their family relationships.

It is not particularly novel to say that parent-child relationships matter, but it is new to suggest that schools should help families strengthen them. Evidence for adopting that approach comes from a just-released Search Institute study, Don’t Forget the Families. Based on a US national survey of 1,085 parents of 3 to 13 year olds, our research
underscores the powerful role that parent-child relationships play in children’s learning and development.
When parenting adults reported building relationships with children that feature high levels of five actions, they were also significantly more likely to report that their children have developed key character strengths, including perseverance, conscientiousness, self-control, and the ability to work well with others. A growing body of research demonstrates that such character strengths are as influential as IQ in determining life outcomes not only in school, but also in the workplace, and in areas such as health and criminality.

See this link for more information for parents:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kent-pekel/parents-parent-teachers-th_b_8282028.html?ir=Australia

**TOPIC: Five ways to get your child talking about their day**

**Summary:** So your child has started school and you’ve gone from knowing all about their day to being told ‘I can’t remember’, ‘we didn’t do anything today’, ‘that was ages ago, I don’t know’ when you ask what they got up to?

Well, first up, you are not alone. It seems to be a weird mind-warping illness that affects them all! These 5 tips might help you get a better response from your primary school children.

See this link for the 5 tips:
http://www.thereadingresidence.com/5-ways-to-get-your-child-talking-about-their-day/

**TOPIC: 13 Children's Books That Encourage Kindness Towards Others**

**Summary:** Kindness is one of the most important character traits, but sometimes kids need an extra reminder about the best ways to be kind to others or why kindness matters. These books provide that reminder in creative and appealing ways. Happy reading!

See this link for the 13 books:

**TOPIC: A Trip to the Beach**

The last week of August, my family and I headed to Long Beach Island (LBI), New Jersey for what turned out to be much more than a day at the beach. Through a program
called Passport to LBI we explored the history and ecology of the island: we used a small net, to catch minnows and crabs in the bay, held baby clams, visited the island museum to see a schoolhouse from 1915, and counted together as we climbed over 200 steps the top of a lighthouse. The best part—it was all free!

As we drove back home, my daughters were clamoring to learn more. They were curious about the world in new and exciting ways. My oldest daughter, inspired by the schoolhouse, wanted to jump back into reading the *Little House on the Prairie* books. My youngest daughter started using vocabulary and descriptive language we’d never heard from her before. Their newly-gained background knowledge was immense. This got me thinking - why should these activities only be available to me and my family? Why just on vacation? Why not everyone, everywhere, all the time? Read more...

Harvard Family Research Project

**The Harvard Family Research Project has become the Global Family Research Project from 1 January 2017. This is the link** [https://globalfrp.org/](https://globalfrp.org/)

**OPIC: Family Guides for Student Success**

**Summary:** These detailed guides were produced by the Mississippi Department of Education to help parents understand the learning expectations for each year level (PreK to year 8) and to give clear and specific advice about how parents can help students learn at home and support their learning at school.

The guides include numerous step by step tools and parents can choose those they feel comfortable with or that their children need.

See this link for more information:


**TOPIC: Engaging Families using the 5Rs**

**Summary:** The Global Family Research Project shares tips on tapping into students’ greatest resources - their families. Developed with the [Public Library Association](https://www.publiclibraryassociation.org/), the 5Rs framework offers afterschool programs and libraries a fresh approach to designing experiences through which students and families can explore and extend their learning. It stretches the imagination to consider the many ways to reach out to families and build the trusting relationships that undergird learning.

This is a link to an infographic of the 5Rs:
http://afterschoolalliance.org/imgs/GFRP%205Rs%20Infographic%20-%20Revised.jpg

**TOPIC: Supporting your child’s social and emotional learning**

**Summary:** Parents and carers have a critical role to play in supporting their children’s social and emotional learning. This edition of KidsMatter enewsletter discusses what social and emotional learning is and how parents can help their children build their social and emotional skills.

See this link for more information:

**TOPIC: Parents as agents of change**

**Summary:** This is a video of Dr Karen Mapp discussing how parents can help and support other parents into more effective engagement with their children’s education.

Parents play many roles which are very important in the education and development of their children including being a partner with teachers and schools in their formal education. But some parents do not know how to do this or may lack the confidence or skills or “permission” to become more engaged particularly with the school. “If parents don’t become involved it does not mean they don’t want to.” This short video discusses how schools and parents can invite and support other parents into better ways to engage with their children’s education.

See the video at this link: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AMZqHVDiw7w

**TOPIC: Activities to support your child’s literacy and numeracy**

**Summary:** Research shows that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are engaged in their education. But how can we parents do that?

You can find at the link below a great set of fact sheets and activities that parents can use each day to help encourage and support their children’s literacy and numeracy. This excellent material has been produced by the Queensland Department of Education and Training and is available at this link:
http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/resources.html
TOPIC: Closing the education divide – Parent-Child Home Programme

Summary: At three years of age, there are already big differences in language and mathematical development between children from rich and poor backgrounds. This gap will widen if not addressed before a child starts school.

A programme pioneered in Ireland in Dublin’s Docklands is showing how early intervention, at home, can eliminate that gap. The Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) is a school readiness programme that aims to nurture pre-school children’s early literacy and numeracy skills through educational play.

Each week, for two years, a home visitor brings a book or toy, and uses it to model play and interaction activities for parents and children to do together. The books and toys are left after each visit to encourage interaction between the parents and their children.

The PCHP originated in America in 1965, and was first introduced in Dublin in 2007, as part of the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) at the National College of Ireland.

See these links for more information:

https://www.ncirl.ie/ELI/Strand-1-Early-Learning-0-6-years/Home-Visitor-Programme-PCHP
http://www.parent-child.org/

TOPIC: Why winning and losing is important for children

Summary: Life is competitive, and children learn that it’s best to be good at things from a young age. Here are some reasons why learning to lose is just as important as learning to win.

See this link for more information:

https://novakdjokovicfoundation.org/winning-losing-important-children/

TOPIC: THINKUKNOW what we see, say, do online

Summary: Technology plays an important role in how young people maintain their friendships and communicate with those closest to them.

Technology is no different to anything else a young person encounters. They will make mistakes, and we need to be able to support them through this and arm them with the right information, and empower them to make the right choices.
Through research and discussions, parents have told us they want to know what their children are seeing and doing online. We’ve developed advice on what children SEE, SAY and DO online. The THINKUKNOW parent portal has specific and useful advice including how to apply parent controls on the various types of devices.

See this link for the parent portal: http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/parents-portal

**TOPIC: How to avoid toxic disputes between parents and teachers**

**Summary:** A very relevant and contemporary article from Rebecca English, lecturer in Education at QUT and a former teacher in Queensland. She offers things that teachers can do and things that parents can do.

See this link for the full article:


**TOPIC: Giving parents meaningful information about their child’s learning**

**Summary:** Dylan Wiliam, Professor of Educational Assessment at the University of London talks to ACER about A to E grades and what meaningful information parents need to understand their child’s learning

See the article and video at this link:


**TOPIC: A new look at parent-teacher interviews**

**Summary:** Instead of the traditional parent-teacher interviews, parents of all the children in the class attend group meetings together with the teacher. They learn about a skill teachers want the students to work on. They set a goal for their child, and receive a few simple, educational games they can play at home to help their child work on the skill.

See more information at this link:

TOPIC: FREE printable counting mats

Summary: These FREE printable Counting Mats are a fun and colourful counting activity for pre-schoolers and kindergarten children to provide an opportunity to count out loud and develop number recognition.

Find the printable mats at this link:

https://www.learning4kids.net/2014/10/26/printable-counting-mats/

TOPIC: Tips for Principals, Teachers, and Families: How to Share Data Effectively

Summary: From the Global Family Resource Project. Face-to-face interaction between parents and teachers is still the cornerstone of school family engagement. Parents not only need access to data, but they need to know how to act on what the data might be telling them. These Parent–Teacher Conference Tip Sheets provide key strategies that both parents and teachers can use to support students both in and out of the classroom. A tip sheet aimed at school principals also outlines how school administrators can support parents and teachers to that end.

See more information at this link

https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Tips-for-Administrators-Teachers-and-Families-How-to-Share-Data-Effectively

TOPIC: Seven Research-Based Ways Families Promote Early Literacy

Summary: From the Global Family Research Project. This link provides a research to practice brief on seven ways families can promote early literacy. There is also an infographic highlighting the seven methods.

See this link: https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Seven-Research-Based-Ways-Families-Promote-Early-Literacy
TOPIC: Jamming with your toddler: how music trumps reading for childhood development

Summary: A new study suggests that regular informal music-making with very young children may even have benefits above and beyond those of reading. But there’s an important, interesting, and somewhat beautiful catch – for best results, make it shared music-making in your home.

In a study involving more than 3,000 children, a University of Queensland team found that informal music-making in the home from around the ages of two and three can lead to better literacy, numeracy, social skills, and attention and emotion regulation by the age of five.

See more information at this link:


TOPIC: Children play their way to better learning outcomes

Summary: To snuggle up with a good book is considered to be one of life's great pleasures. But research increasingly shows that, at least when it comes to small children, the sedentary approach to reading isn’t always best.

According to the Early Years Learning Framework, children aged 2-5 have better learning outcomes when they are engaged in play-based learning.

See this link for more information:

http://splash.abc.net.au/newsandarticles/blog/-/b/2026509/children-play-their-way-to-better-learning-outcomes?WT.tsrc=Email&WT.mc_id=Innovation_Innovation-Splash|Primary_email|20151104

TOPIC: The Brain-Changing Power of Conversation

Summary: Interplay between parents and children ignites the brain and boosts its response to language, spurring lasting literacy skills. New research describes a simple and powerful way to build children’s brains: talk with them, early and often.

See more from the Harvard Graduate School of Education at this link.

https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/02/brain-changing-power-conversation
TOPIC: 5 Super Simple Habits that Will Transform Your Parenting

Summary: There are tons of books and blogs that teach us how to be a good parent, but it's really very simple. Being a good parent can start with changing a few habits. Try one of these simple habits every day throughout the next five days, and watch how it transforms your family and your home!

https://www.thebettermom.com/blog/2015/3/27/5-super-simple-habits-that-will-transform-your-parenting-plus-a-free-printable

TOPIC: Best-ever communication tips around teens

Summary: After teaching, counselling and living with teens for 40 years, Carmen Myler has worked out some of the things that can improve our capacity as grown-ups – those who have pre-frontal lobes – to connect and communicate with teens who are on the bumpy ride to becoming adults.

Use this link to read more:
https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/best-ever-communication-tips-around-teens/

TOPIC: Building Relationships With Teachers

Summary: A parent and former middle school teacher uses thank you notes at the start of the year to foster ties with her child’s teachers. By changing routines she gains so much more.....Use this link to read more:

https://www.edutopia.org/article/building-relationships-teachers

TOPIC: Building resilience in children aged 0 – 12

Summary: Resilience … it’s a familiar word, isn’t it? But what does it really mean?

When we talk about resilience, we’re talking about a child’s ability to cope with ups and downs, and bounce back from the challenges they experience during childhood – for example moving home, changing schools, studying for an exam or dealing with the death of a loved one. Building resilience helps children not only to deal with current difficulties that are a part of everyday life, but also to develop the basic skills and habits that will help them deal with challenges later in life, during adolescence and adulthood.
Use this link to read more:


**TOPIC: University of Queensland Researchers find students whose fathers engage with their education are more successful**

**Summary:** DADS who ask about the school day or talk to teachers could be the secret to boosting a child’s education dreams and confidence.

Researchers from the Life Course Centre at the University of Queensland found the father figure had a significant impact.


**TOPIC: How to Read to Differently Aged Children for Great Family Read Aloud Time!**

**Summary:** To spend more time reading with your younger ones, read below for the following strategies:

https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/reading-to-differently-aged-children-at-the-same-time/?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Unique+Read+Aloud+Ideas&utm_campaign=20180213_m144066909_Unqiue+Read+Aloud+Ideas&utm_term=How+to+read+aloud+to+siblings+of+different+ages

**TOPIC: How to Spend Dinner Time Without Asking “How Was Your Day?”**

**Summary:** Picture the scene: You’ve had a long day. You’re tired, the kids are cranky and you are all desperate to get some food in your bellies. You know you should use this family dinner time as a way to connect with your kids, find out what’s going on in their lives. Help them on the road to becoming good humans. So you begin, How was your day?

They answer, Fine. You try again, “What did you do in school? “Nothing. So you give up. I mean you were tired anyway, right? But what if you could have a meaningful family dinner without feeling like Sisyphus? Good news! You can read below for different ideas and strategies
TOPIC: How to transform your teenager from a reluctant reader to avid bookworm in five steps

Summary: What do you do when your child has reached adolescence and suddenly shudders at the thought of reading for pleasure?

Is there anything a parent can do? There is plenty, according to Margaret Merga from Curtin University, but it is important to understand why children turn away from reading for fun in the first place. To read more, please use the following link:


TOPIC: Music Making; Joyful Ways Families Can Promote Children’s Social and Emotional Development

Summary: Numerous studies on children’s exposure to music through instrument lessons or music education in school have shown that it can have a significant impact on a child’s brain development. In fact, children with musical training have been found to score higher on reading and math assessments, have greater spatial and fine motor skills, and enhanced social and emotional skills. (1) In addition, one study that examined 232 brain scans of healthy children found that those who played a musical instrument had a stronger ability to focus their attention, manage anxiety and exercise self-control.

TOPIC: Community, parents and students help determine success

**Summary:** Their backpacks are full. They are armed with school supplies. And they are dressed for a new school year. But regardless of the outward appearances, not every child walks into the classroom prepared to learn. Some are hungry. Some are cold. And some are angry.

These experiences shape a child’s journey in school, and can mean the difference between academic success and failure, says Lee County Schools Superintendent Nancy Graham. Teachers and principals can help, but student success also hinges on the kids and their at-home support system.


TOPIC: Parent-teacher conferences get new look

**Summary:** Butte des Morts Elementary in Menasha is piloting a new parent-teacher conference style. The format includes group meetings with the parents of all the children in the class. Parents set goals for the kids and receive activities they can do at home to help their kids grow. For more information use the link below:


TOPIC: WHEN YOU HAVE KIDS WHO NEVER LISTEN: 8 POSITIVE STRATEGIES THAT WORK!

**Summary:** Here’s 8 positive strategies to help you (and the child) work together towards a little more success… Use this link to read more:


TOPIC: 4 Ways to Talk with Your Kids About Their Celebrity Influencers

**Summary:** A large number of U.S. children have told Highlights in their 2018 State of the Kid survey that celebrities are a key and growing influencer in their lives. Yes, parents remain the top influencer and second and importantly, teachers also capture children’s admiration. But increasingly our children also look to the personalities on their screens for
role modeling. Whether it’s an e-gamer (playing competitive video games) or a reality television show star or a professional athlete, fifteen percent of children ages 6-12 report that they admire and respect celebrities. In addition to noting that those role models are caring and kind, they said they were generous, helped others, were smart, and knowledgeable.

Read more here: https://thriveglobal.com/stories/4-ways-to-talk-with-your-kids-about-their-celebrity-influencers/

TOPIC: From Clueless to Connected : My Parent Engagement Journey

Summary: When my daughter started preschool four years ago, I was thrilled. I couldn’t believe how quickly the time went by and now my little person was starting her educational journey. And just like most first-time parents, I didn’t know what exactly to expect.

There I was walking to back-to-school night to meet with other families and teachers. I was incredibly excited about the very first steps she would be making in her educational journey. But there was a problem. I had absolutely, positively no idea what I was supposed to do to be a great supporter of her education and help find the same love for education that I have.

Read more here: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/from-clueless-to-connected_b_13382714

TOPIC: Helping Children Find Their Voices – Tips for Teachers and Tips for Parents

Summary: It was so heartening to learn from the 2,000 children, ages 6-12, who were questioned through the Highlights State of the Kid survey. They said they feel like parents and teachers really listen to them and care about what they have to say. But how do we help our children use that voice in healthy and giving ways?

Here are three simple ideas for parents...


TOPIC: How Children May Perceive Loss and Death at Various Ages and Stages

Summary: There are many different ways that parents can support their children, no matter what age they are. Read more here:
TOPIC: Research shows the importance of parents reading with children – even after children can read

Summary: Research has typically found that shared reading experiences are highly beneficial for young people. Read more here: https://theconversation.com/research-shows-the-importance-of-parents-reading-with-children-even-after-children-can-read-82756

TOPIC: The Unexpected Connection Between Handwriting and Learning to Read

Summary: Research shows there’s something special about language development and the act of handwriting. In studies, kids who practice handwriting do better at reading and spelling. The reason? Some experts believe that forming letters by hand while learning sounds activates reading circuits in the brain that promote literacy.

Read more here: https://www.understood.org/en/community-events/blogs/expert-corner/2018/09/24/the-unexpected-connection-between-handwriting-and-learning-to-read?fbclid=IwAR3mRDV9Q4H9e7yN2v5Hnu5Y5GIJZiJVuzZP6q0tuHfsVCAqP_snXH5GsFE

TOPIC: Viewing Parenting as Servant Leadership

Summary: Parents, by the very nature of our roles, serve in a leadership position while we raise our children. A servant leader realizes that his or her ability to significantly influence others and achieve any vision comes from serving others. Understanding the qualities of a successful leader - that of a servant leader - can assist any parent in further refining his or her values and skills to better perform her role. Research on power demonstrates that the skills required to rise to a leadership position are empathy and social skills. However, interestingly, those are the very skills that become the most challenging to leaders once they have acquired power. So when we are parenting, we may have a greater challenge than in other roles with our ability to be empathetic and to demonstrate social intelligence.

Read more here: https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2018/08/02/viewing-parenting-as-servant-leadership/
TOPIC: Parent-community-engagement-framework for parents of those children in Years 3 - 6

Summary: 14 steps for you


TOPIC: Parent-community-engagement-framework for parents of those children in Years 7 - 9

Summary: 11 steps for you