



EDUCATION & TRAINING for 2010

Don't abandon your child at the school gate

Everyone wants their child to succeed at school. We send them off with hopes for a great future. However life is intensely busy and we can fall to sending a child to school, trusting that everything will be done by the professionals, effectively abandoning our children at the school gate. The problem is that effective education is a team game. Don't be dismayed though - it doesn't need to take huge amounts of time.

One of the simplest things you can do is helping them to calmly get ready for school. Teaching them to

empty their bag after school and get it ready for school the night before, creates a pattern to their day. This has double benefits for them academically. Firstly that routine helps them to see and look for patterns in other areas... maths and reading. Secondly it emotionally settles them. Coming to school calm and feeling prepared puts their brain into an open state for receiving and retrieving information.

Following on with the idea of emotional support, another way you can help their brain is to send them off to school and receive them home with a

big hug and kind words. A loved brain is a successful brain.

Yet another support you can offer them is the 'downloading' at the end of the day. A happy, loved brain learns, so it follows that it is important our children have time each day to share the positive times of their day. It helps them remember the learning and doses their brain with happy chemicals!

The other benefit of talking with you is the chance to tell you about situations at school that make them fearful, angry or overwhelmed. Try listening to the whole story and when they have finished expressing themselves, ask a question. What if you...? What else could you do? Give them opportunity to try communication skills and problem solving for themselves. However, if the situation isn't resolved they need you to step in for them. If they are angry, fearful, frustrated, confused or upset, their learning will suffer.

The secret to resolving these problems is to start early, really early, before they even start to occur. Some parents wait until they are really upset and go in with guns blazing. It creates an 'us and them' situation and closes possibilities of quick and easy resolution. In the years I have spent in the education sector, I have yet to meet the teacher who lies awake at night working out new methods for torturing small children!

At the beginning of the year, make time to introduce yourself to the teacher. Tell them

how your child is looking forward (or not) to school, mention if you are able to help in the classroom or elsewhere in the school. Let the teacher know that you want to be involved and that the teacher can communicate with you at any time. This will set a positive tone and have everyone working on the same team.

If a problem occurs then approach the teacher quickly. A five minute conversation now could avoid big problems later on. Getting specialist help and tests done can take time, so the sooner everyone is aware of the problem, the sooner it can be worked out. Be aware that the teacher will do everything they can to get the help your child needs. Sometimes the child will not fall into the guidelines set for the extra help open to students. The teacher is not deliberately sabotaging your child's future! It will fall to you to seek

out the extra help your child needs. There are some very effective specialist tutors around in the areas of literacy, math and other subjects. Look

them up and use them! A focus for a short time could reap big rewards later on.

The other support that you can offer your child is the opportunity to practice the material they have learnt in class. This is the focus of most homework. The average child needs seven to eight repetitions of material in order to remember it. This isn't always possible in the classroom setting. So make the use of car journeys, waiting for classes, and dinner prep time to go over tables and spelling words. They could Skype Grandma to do their homework with her! Little and often will yield fantastic results.

A mother's intuition is often right about problems but it won't be alerted if we only drop and collect children at the school gate. So take a few minutes to hug, to listen, to rehearse and to talk. It will reap big results.

Best of all, those few minutes will build an intimacy and depth of relationship that will last your child a lifetime.

-Sarah de Raat, Literacy Tutor with Enrich Tutoring

Aramoho School



- FREE fruit each day
- Huge swimming pool
- Large attractive grounds
- Dedicated, caring staff
- Lunch-time recreational activities
- Performing arts suite
- Great library and resources
- Low student/teacher numbers
- FULL PRIMARY SCHOOL TO YEAR 10

Enrol your child at this student friendly school on:
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2010
2 Mitchell St, Wanganui
Phone 343 8249

Enrol now

WESTMERE SCHOOL

PRIDE
HONESTY
RESPECT



School commences
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 9am

Westmere School
Phone 345 6919

Cnr of Francis & Rapanui Road, Wanganui

PH. 345 5220

ANDERSONS FOR MEN



Expert advice & friendly service.
Income Support Quotes.

50 Victoria Avenue. Ph 345 5220
by the fountain, on the avenue



We're hand picking 30 students for the Whanganui School of Design



Whanganui School of Design is hand picking just 30 students to join the school in 2010.

The school has an unrivalled reputation for producing highly creative graduates who consistently win national and international awards and secure top jobs in the industry. Think Weta Workshop.

Whanganui School of Design is a boutique design school - it's small, so students get more time with lecturers. Students also have 24 hour access to facilities.

The Computer Graphic Design degree doesn't just teach computer applications - it allows students to explore their creative and strategic thinking, to push the boundaries with that kiwi 'can-do' attitude.

The Whanganui School of Design represents kiwi ingenuity at its best!

So, are you good enough to be one of the 30?

ENROL NOW AT WHANGANUI SCHOOL OF DESIGN
AS PROGRAMMES START 15 FEBRUARY 2010

passing on the
passion

0800 GOUCOL
4 6 8 2 6 5

enquiry@ucol.ac.nz
www.ucol.ac.nz

UCOL
UNIVERSAL COLLEGE OF LEARNING