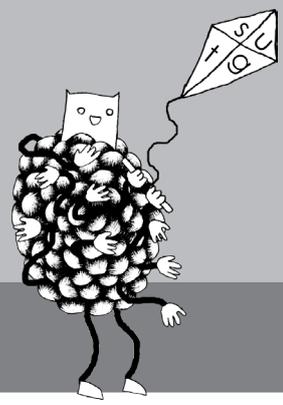




'In partnership with you'

Developing your children to be successful students



NEWSLETTER MAR - APR 2018

DEAR FAMILIES,

The first term is over and Autumn is upon us. I hope that all is well with you and your family. Many of you will have been to see your children's teachers, and find out how they are doing so far. In my experience as a coach and as a mum, it is now time to firm up [homework agreements](#) with your children if you haven't already done so, so that they are able to master the skills and knowledge required for their age and stage. It might be something as simple as learning their times tables, or reading, or completing work that was not finished at school or it might be set school homework.

I'm currently finishing the last draft of my book about coaching. It's taken me years to get this far as life has often intervened, but the book continues to be a very satisfying and fun project. I'm going to share some useful information from my latest chapter for those of you who feel overwhelmed with homework roadblocks. They might include a stubborn child, work and/or home commitments, illness, or a big life change such as someone dying or moving house.

Homework tips:

Find out what is possible. Make up your mind what you can practically do. Perhaps you don't find the time to coach every day, or you can't coach for longer than 10 or 20 minutes at a time, or you snatch moments in between activities. Decide what you can do.

Decide the details and write them up somewhere public. Decide when, where, and how long you and your child can coach, and what skills and knowledge you want them to learn from you. Write these decisions down on a timetable, or diary, or calendar, or a post-it note for the fridge. Somewhere you notice them.

Be pleased with yourself when you coach and forgive yourself and reorganise when you fail to coach. Keep a note of when you coach and give yourself a tick and a mental pat on the back. Notice when it doesn't happen and make changes so that it can happen more easily, then begin coaching again as soon as possible.

Plan to coach as regularly as you can. I have found that when I persist with coaching regularly, even when there seems to be little point in persisting, the coaching will become easier and surprisingly pleasant for both of us. Difficulties will become easier to handle, you will discover solutions you never knew existed, and you and your child will develop strength to persist when the going gets tough.

A special thank-you to those students who have made me work hard while coaching them. To those students who were afraid to make mistakes but not to have tantrums or cry; who were masters of not doing any work while paying close attention to every possible diversion they could; who never seemed to remember anything at first, including bringing their books and doing the homework; thank you for helping me become a more skilful coach and respectful adult.



Just to prompt you.....several families still have books from my library. If you think you are one of those families, please ring me 06)8340214 or email me at anne.marsh@xtra.co.nz to check, or even just slip the books gently into my letterbox. I am so pleased when I get returned books, especially if I haven't seen them for a while.

If you want to enjoy more of my ideas there is a link to subscribe to my posts on [my website](#)