

WE'RE SO BUSY WATCHING OUT FOR WHAT'S JUST AHEAD OF US THAT WE DON'T TAKE TIME TO ENJOY WHERE WE ARE - BILL WATTERSON



February 2019



ON *this* MONTH

At Smarty Pants Early Learning Centre

Soccer lessons ...Every Wednesday Nick will be holding classes that teach children soccer skills. It is an additional cost but worth it for busy mums that find it hard to do additional activities. *Cost \$11.00*

Tennis lessonsOne not to be missed! Each Friday sign your little one up to participate. You will find a sheet at the front counter area.



Staff birthdays this month:

Tarryn – 1st
Nicky – 24th

Storypark

We now use Storypark at Smarty Pants
What is Storypark?

Storypark is an easy-to-use private online service that helps teachers, parents and families work together to record, share and extend children's learning. We can capture a child's development by posting photos, videos, stories, moments, notes and responses. Creating a Storypark account is quick, easy and free for parents and families. You can then invite family members to be part of that profile.

Why Storypark?

Supporting parents

- Be part of your child's day no matter where you are.
- Extend your child's interests and learning.
- Record your child's stories and keep them forever.
- Share and collaborate with wider family in a safe, private environment.
- Perfect for any parent or family situation, including working couples, separated parents and overseas relatives.
- Free to access.

Enabling children

- Enhanced learning opportunities.
- Feedback and reinforcement from family.
- Stimulates language and ideas.
- Revisit stories to reinforce and extend learning.





Kids in the kitchen



MINI PEA & PESTO FRITTATAS

PREP 10 min | COOK 10 - 12 min | MAKES 12

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups (250 grams) peas
(if using frozen peas, simply run under water to defrost a little)
- 6 eggs
- 1/2-cup cream
- 1 cup tasty cheese, grated
- 2 tablespoons pesto
- 2 tablespoons basil, finely chopped

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 190 degrees Celsius. Grease a 12-hole muffin tin with butter or olive oil spray. Divide the peas evenly into holes of prepared tin. Place the eggs, cream, cheese, pesto and basil into a large mixing bowl and whisk to combine.

Pour egg mixture over peas and bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden and set. Allow standing in the pan for 5 minutes or so before loosening with a knife and removing. Serve alongside a little fresh fruit or veggie sticks. These muffins aren't suitable for freezing.

Enjoy mylovelylittlelunchbox.com

SAFETY – Remember to always supervise kids in the kitchen.

Source: Recipe and images belong to mylovelylittlelunchbox.com

Book reviews

Three lesser-known titles that are sure to become favourites



THE UNDERWATER FANCY DRESS PARADE

DAVINA BELL | 3-7 YEARS

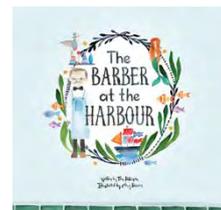
The night before the underwater fancy-dress parade, Alfie got that feeling

Sometimes it's hard to be brave. Sometimes you get that feeling. Sometimes you're just not ready . . . until, one day, you are. A wonderful book that explores the feelings of anxiety or worry that a child may experience before certain occasions or events in their lives.

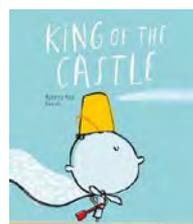
THE BARBER AT THE HARBOUR

TOM PATERSON | 4-8 YEARS

Sailors return from long voyages and head straight to the harbour barber.



A witty and engaging children's book that tells the story of a barber who finds innovative ways to groom the shabby sailors as they return from sea. Through rhyme, the book pays homage to the iconic hairstyles of recent decades, accompanied by beautiful watercolour illustrations that bring the characters to life.



KING OF THE CASTLE

AURORA RUD | 3-8 Years

When a creative young boy goes to the beach, he sees it as a blank canvas for imagination and adventure.

What starts as a sand castle becomes much, much more... The book is written from the perspective of a fearless, all-conquering child at the beach. There is a dragon, three thousand workers constructing the castle and a moat as well as a giant deep-sea monster and more...

FOCUS ARTICLE: How to teach your kids to do hard things



Ever wonder how to teach your kids to do hard things? How to fight fear, to live brave and overcome hard things? Here are some great ideas to get you started.

Life is full of hard things. Learning to walk is tough. Growing up is challenging. Learning to become a good spouse is no easy feat, settling into the role of mother is hard. Hard. Hard. Hard. So why wouldn't we want to prepare our kids to handle hard things well—to not balk at the pressure? Why shouldn't we seek to give them eyes that see beyond what's right in front of them, intentionally training them and equipping them with the tools to handle hard things?

Here are 5 things I want to be intentional about in raising kids who can do hard things, kids who are overcomers.

1. Let them fail | Really. Our home is a training ground for life. And so is yours. It's a place where our children are loved no matter what, a place where their worth is not based on performance, and the safest place for them to trip and fall and learn about what it takes to get back up again. My natural tendency is to smooth out all the rough spots, and champion my children to success. But this does not help them in the long run. A cutthroat workplace or college class are not the best place for our kids to be learning these lessons for the first time. Be intentional about giving your children a safe place to mess it all up, to crash and burn, to learn consequences and forgiveness and exactly what it takes to get back up and try again.

2. Equip them | Watching our children deal with hard things give us the opportunity to teach them how to respond well. One thing I'm learning is that no matter how irrational, improbable, or ridiculous it

may seem to someone else, fear is real. We all fear different things, but when you are in the midst of it, it becomes your reality. Minimizing someone else's fear is not helpful. But teaching them how we handle fear, how we fight lies that can eat away at our hearts, is quite useful.

3. Talk truth | While we try to re-shape hearts and complaining attitudes around here we don't shy away from calling things hard. Learning to swim is hard. Pulling weeds is hard. Keeping a tidy home is hard. Sure it is, but that doesn't mean we don't do it. As my kids get older we talk more and more about the hard things of life, because they don't ever magically go away. Talking truth with your children, rather than sugar-coating life lessons, conditions them to understanding that hard work is a part of life and not something we shy away from.

4. Start training them | Have you ever considered intentionally training your children to do hard things, to push past their will and what they see right in front of them in order to learn the value of perseverance? You can be intentional about helping your children develop faithfulness and tenacity. Try taking on a big challenge as a family. Help your kids engage in conversations outside of their comfort zone or offer an apology even when it feels awkward. Show them how to serve others or what it might look like to give sacrificially. These things don't come naturally for most children, or adults for that matter. Walk them through it intentionally and give them opportunities and new environments in which to practice it. Make sure they see you doing the same. Let them fold their clothes, let them weed the flowerbeds, teach them to clean up the kitchen, to sweep the steps and wash the windows. The tasks will grow with age, of course, and you can even make some of the bigger and more challenging chores paid jobs, but only pay for a job well done. It all takes effort and oversight on your part, but slowly they will begin to learn the value of hard work and doing hard things. And, hopefully, your house will be getting cleaner in the process!

5. Follow through | Similar to discipline, follow through is key and is often the hardest part as a parent. You love those kids like crazy and if you're anything like me; you tend to let them off the hook too easy at times. But that is not parenting brave. Parenting brave requires the very same thing of us that we are trying to train in our kids, making decisions not based solely on what is right in front of us, but with the end result in mind. In this case that would be responsible and capable adults

This is an edited version of 'Raising Overcomers' read the article in full at the following ink www.mother.ly/child/raising-overcomers-how-to-teach-your-kids-to-do-hard-things#close

Source: *Motherly*. Author *Katie Westenberg*

PIPE CLEANER MATH

This numeracy activity will take you less than 5 minutes to put together, and all the materials are very inexpensive.

Start with paper cups, turn the cups upside down, and use a marker to write numbers on the front of the cups. Begin with a small set of numbers your child has been learning. Poke a matching number of holes in the bottom of the cup. Cut a handful of pipe cleaners, into halves.

The pipe cleaner counting activity is now ready. To complete the activity, the children must read the number on the front of the cup. They then count out the right number of pipe cleaners, and push them through the holes at the top of the cup.

This is a fantastic fine motor activity as well as counting. The smaller the holes the more challenging the activity will be.

Source: *Planning Playtime*
www.planningplaytime.com



HEALTH & SAFETY: Safe Internet use for Preschoolers



The Internet can entertain, educate and occupy your pre-schooler. But your child can come across dangerous people or inappropriate content online. With some practical internet safety precautions, you can minimise the risks for your child.

Internet safety risks for pre-schoolers

There are three main kinds of Internet safety risks for children:

- **Content risks:** these risks include content that children might find upsetting, disgusting or otherwise uncomfortable.
- **Contact risks:** these risks include children coming into contact with people they don't know. For example, a child might use a communication app and talk to a stranger.
- **Conduct risks:** these risks include children acting in ways that might hurt others. For example, accidentally making in-app purchases is another conduct risk.

Protecting your child from Internet safety risks: tips

You play a key role in reducing the risks that your child is exposed to on the Internet. There are many practical things you can do to help keep your pre-schooler safe while she's online.

Here are some ideas:

- **Use the Internet** with your child or make sure you're close by and aware of what your child is doing while he's online. This way you can act quickly if your child is concerned or upset by something he's seen.
- **Create a family media plan.** Your plan could cover things like screen-free areas in your house, internet safety rules like not

giving out personal information, and the programs, games and apps that are OK for your child to use.

- **Use child-friendly search engines** like Kiddle, or content providers like KIDOZ, ABC Kids or YouTube Kids.
- **Check that games, websites and TV programs** are appropriate for your child. For example, you can look at reviews on Common Sense Media.
- **Make sure older siblings follow your Internet safety rules** when they go online with your pre-schooler. Rules might include watching only age-appropriate programs.
- **Set up a folder with bookmarks** for your child's favourite apps or websites so that she can easily find them.
- **Check privacy settings, use parental controls, block in-app purchases, disable one-click payment options** on your devices, and find out how to make complaints about offensive content.

Teaching safe and responsible online behaviour

You can help your child learn how to use the Internet safely, responsibly and enjoyably. If you teach your child how to manage Internet safety risks and worrying experiences for himself, he'll build digital resilience. This is the ability to deal with and respond positively to any risks he encounters online.

Here are some ideas:

- **Be a good role model.** Your child learns from you. This means you can model safe and healthy Internet use by using the Internet in the way you want your child to use it.
- **Explain to your child that there's good and bad content on the Internet,** including content that isn't true. Encourage your child to talk to you if she sees something upsetting, scary or worrying.
- **Spend time online with your child.** Get him to show you websites that are fun or interesting, ask him to show you how to play the app or game that he's playing, or talk about the videos he's watching.
- **Explain to your child about in-app purchases and pop-up advertisements.**

It's also a good idea to find out how grandparents and other people in your child's life use the Internet and try to agree on a shared approach. It's OK if your rules are different from those of other families. If you've thought them through and you're happy with the way they're working, you're helping keep your child safe online.

For additional information and to read this article in full go to www.raisingchildren.net.au/articles/internet_safety_preschoolers.html



CUT EMISSIONS AT HOME

Burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, coal, oil and gasoline raises the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and global warming. You can help to reduce the demand for fossil fuels, which in turn reduces global warming, by using energy more wisely.

The following is a list of 10 steps YOU can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
2. Use Less Heat and Air Conditioning

3. Replace Your Light Bulbs
4. Drive Less and Drive Smart
5. Buy Energy-Efficient Products
6. Use Less Hot Water
7. Use the "Off" Switch
8. Plant a Tree
9. Get a Report Card from Your Utility Company
10. Encourage Others to Conserve

It's 'climate crunch time' and everything we care about is now under threat. **The Sustainable Living festival runs from the 1-28th of February, find out more at www.slif-apply.org**

Source: www.eastgwillimbury.ca/Services/Environment/Ten_Ways_to_Reduce_Greenhouse_Gases.htm?PageMode=Print

SOME INTERESTING SCHOOLING FACTS YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD BEFORE:

1. The City Montessori School in Lucknow, India, is the largest school in the world in terms of number of students, with more than 32,000 students.



2. France has the shortest school year from August to June and also the longest school day.

3. In Holland, children start school on the day they turn 4, which means that there's always someone new in the class.



Read more interesting facts at the link below.
Source: <https://www.scoopwhoop.com/Interesting-Facts-Education-Around-The-World/#.le6qkmov1>

Families Matter!

We welcome and encourage the involvement of all parents/families at Smarty Pants. Your ideas, experiences and skills are greatly valued and will enable us to extend each child's interests, abilities and knowledge.

At Smarty Pants, we understand that our busy lives can't always afford the time, however any contribution no matter how big or small is much appreciated.

Take the time to think about these areas. Let us know any information you think is helpful or important via email or comment via the Storypark app.



Your Occupation/ Hobby

Your child loves you and when they get to childcare all they talk about is you!

You are the most important person in their world. We welcome all parents to visit your child's room to talk about their occupation or hobby (e.g. music, craft, cooking).

Home Culture

Your home culture is most welcome at Smarty Pants. We would greatly appreciate if you were able to share with us aspects of your culture and family life.

Reading

Children love to be read to. If you or your parents have the time please contact your Room Educators to organise a day for reading.

Useful Junk

We are always on the lookout for recyclable items for the rooms. Please check with your Room Educators about whether there is space for more items at the moment as recycled materials can become overwhelming when there is too much!

Family Photos

Our aim is to create a warm, friendly and homely environment. One way we like to achieve this is by having family photos displayed. Please bring in a photo of your family for us to display in the room.

Parents are welcome to visit or call Smarty Pants at any time. If you have any other suggestions or ideas on how we can best work together, please let us know.

5 Minute MOVES Jump Rope

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Do you remember skipping as a child? Do you remember the songs you used to sing? 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' or maybe 'Cinderella dressed in yellow'. Why not try teaching these and the skill of skipping to your child. It can be difficult at first, start with the basics or even use a hula-hoop to begin the learning process.

Skipping is a full body workout; it improves cardiovascular fitness, hand and eye co-ordination and tones muscles in the lower and upper body. It is a great form of exercise for any age.

If you need to refresh your memory go to oursimplehomestead.com/old-fashion-jump-rope-songs/ to download some old favourite jump rope songs.

Feedback is always welcome 

How can we make our newsletter even better?

What information would you like us to include?



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