

## Connecting with your Kids

As parents, we naturally want the best for our children. We want them to have happy, safe and rewarding lives filled with possibilities. A large part of their lives is school where they learn to be literate and numerate. There are so many wonderful teachers and schools doing a terrific job to help our children learn these skills. These skills that our children are taught in school are important for them to participate in their futures, but are they enough?

'Life skills', also known as 'soft skills' are vital for our children to succeed in the futures they design for themselves. Life skills are often learnt later on in life on the job by trial and error. They require individuals to be adaptable or to, so to speak, 'read the play'. Life skills are the people skills that enable us human beings to be able to socialise, communicate and interact with each other in harmony.

There are so many benefits for our children in learning these life skills at an early age. And, more than all that, being connected as a family is one of the most special things that can be experienced in life.

I have been teaching primary school aged children for over a decade. I have also worked in adult education. Prior to that, I spent many years in hospitality, mainly front-of-house. There is nothing more satisfying for me than to work with people. I love connecting with people of all ages, people from different backgrounds, people from different countries and cultures, people from all walks of life. I am a stand for people being a part of a loving and connected family.

With the holiday season upon us, this month you might like to try some of these things at home as a family to foster the wonderful life skill of creativity.....

- Play 'Charades' by acting out words and syllables in the title of a movie, a song or a book.
- Open a book and quickly point to a word without looking. Tell a one-minute story that includes your word.
- Play 'Mr. Squiggle'... one person quickly draws a squiggle on a piece of paper and passes it along for the next person to complete the drawing.
- Build something together with Lego, paper, playing cards, play doh or modelling clay.

Have fun connecting with your kids. For further information, see my Facebook page 'Connecting with your Kids'.

Cheers,  
Andy McNeilly

