

Formative Motivation is key to success

JTMIII FLJ August 2015

Motivation in the educational realm plays an important part in whether or not how interested and excited your child will be towards learning. This excitement and passion starts at home with your child at birth. Your child from their initial breaths, begin their educational journey and you, from that first moment, become their lead teacher. Your position as lead teacher should be a constant for your child for the rest of your life. Formative motivation begins at birth as you are smiling and holding your child conveying and sharing those first communicative moments of love and trust. The manner in which you start to connect to your child in those first moments will be their springboard into those initial learning instances. Those first loving touches done in a caring way will motivate your newborn to seek more of the same touches and interactions from you, on a regular basis.

These formative teaching moments grow into more fantastic interactions as child motivation to feel that love is enhanced. As your child enters school for the first time, they take all the knowledge and love that you have shared with them thus far and begin to evaluate the way that their teachers and peers relate to them, measuring those experiences against their initial learning that they had with you at home. If those early infant experiences have been fantastic and they have proven fulfilling, your child will seek those similar moments with their new teachers and classmates. They will compare and contrast each new experience that they have and relate it back to what they have experienced to date during their formative years with you. If that experience has been wonderful, then their motivation will be to experience and create similar moments with their first friends and teachers. If that experience has been not as good, your child will have to sort through the confusion of these early experiences and try to figure out which of these methodologies or manners are correct. This may be the object of some confusion between introductory experiences which may cause some early angst for your child. When confusion is present, motivation to move through the distraction may be more difficult. Your job as their first teacher is the most important job you will ever have. How you and your child traverse through those first few years of learning may be an indicator of how successful your child may be.

You as the lead teacher and as parent will make you that first and most important role model. Your child is naturally going to mimic much of what they see you do and what you say. If something is very important to you, there is a real chance that the same thing may be important to them. If they see you talk respectfully to your spouse and siblings, there is a real possibility that they will do the same with their new found teachers and peers. If they see that these interactions are loving and positive, your child is going to be motivated to do

the same. These initial behaviors will begin to be the foundation of much of what your child will create within any domain they construct. This is especially evident as your child begins to create the sources of intrinsic motivation which may determine the manner in which they connect to aspects of their everyday life. This created behavior may also play a role to what extent they will motivate themselves to be successful. This may initially appear as them successfully knowing their colors and you giving them beautiful and loving congratulations for a job well done. Later it could be your child standing on stage getting their diploma, reflecting on the beautiful journey that you shared with them each step of the way. Standing by their side the entire time motivating them with encouragement and teaching them in different ways, each and every day, will be a memory that neither of you will ever forget . This may motivate your child to share these experiences with their future friends and family and create a tradition of learning, which you began to motivate, from the first time you held your child in your arms.