



Respect Responsibility Confidence **PERSISTENCE**

Persistence is a necessary skill for all children to develop- success depends on it. That's why it's one of the four qualities that Risdon Park Primary School and the Pirie Partnership of Kindergartens and Schools focus on.

From early on in life, there are events that require persistence- learning to walk, learning to tie shoes, to ride a bike, to kick a ball, to play a game, to learn to read- activities that seem hard at first, and with practise, are achievable.

Teachers encourage and support students to practice and use persistence when starting a learning task- to have a go and not give in if it becomes challenging. They teach strategies to help a student persist to solve a problem - to attempt, practice and achieve.

Parents promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in when they start to find something difficult. "I know you can do it" - being a guide to work through difficulties, and coaching when something doesn't work out right away, can help develop persistence and gain confidence in themselves, which will help them throughout life.

As adults we now that children need to learn the skills to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough. At any age, life can bring challenge. When students persist rather than giving up, they also build personal strength and resilience.

Rosie Bannister

School Counsellor

Four practical strategies from Michael Grose you can use to promote a sense of persistence in your children:

1. **Develop a vocabulary for persistence.** Words like "Hang tough", "Work Hard" and "Hang in There" can become part of their every day vocabulary.
2. **Point out to children when they stick at a task.** Most parents know it pays off when they catch their children being good but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. The behaviours you focus on as parents expand so let them know when they have been persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.
3. **Help children to remember times when they experienced success** by HANGING IN when they were younger. Let them know that persistence has paid off before and it will again.
4. **Talk about HARD WORK with your children.** They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case.

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