

parentSCOPE Workshop: Seven Ways of Guiding Children Towards Respect Through Play

PLAY MATTERS: Playgroup NSW Supported Playgroup Conference, 29/8/08

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Aims:

To explore the importance of play and playgroups and their integral role in creating positive outcomes for families with children under five.

To discover “*Seven Ways of guiding children towards respect through play*” as an innovative approach to learning through play.

But first: A Riddle:

- You can't touch it...But it affects how you feel.
- You can't see it...But it's there when you look in the mirror.
- You can't hear it...But it's there every time you talk.

Q. What is this mysterious but very important thing? A. It's Respect!

Our Seven Ways parent-coaching method is based on the foundation of respect. The “Seven Ways” were identified by Diana Haskins, the founder of the Parent As Coach Academy, as a result of her work with teen-parent relationships in America: asking them “How do you want your parents to be with you?”

At parentSCOPE we use this Seven Ways method in our workshops, courses and in our one on one parent-coaching: at playgroups, preschools, schools, workplaces, shopping centres and in homes. Our special brand of coaching uses a process of inquiry to raise awareness, create action and encourage accountability to bring about positive change.

Respect is the key that Salurri[®] our book character in our book *Salurri and The Way Train*, suggests we use in our relationships. She uses it to help unlock a more child-friendly response from the families that she meets on the train platform where she waits for “The Way Train”.

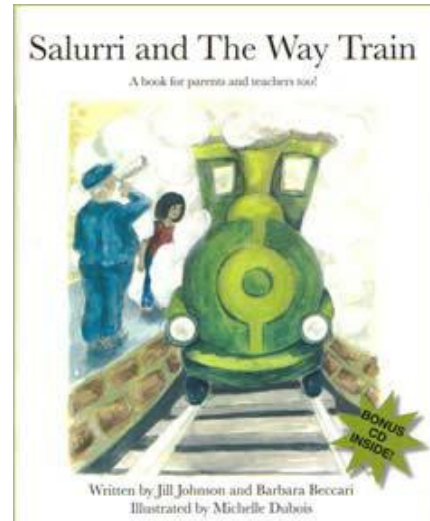
We created Salurri[®] to deliver the message of the Seven Ways to parents and professionals working with young children. We thought it was a playful and innovative way of spreading the important message of promoting respectful relationships. Because our slogan at parentSCOPE is ‘COACHING PARENTS TO STAY ON TRACK’ we set our story at a train station.

Salurri[®] speaks her message through a poem *A Message from Salurri[®]* on which the book is based. She speaks it on behalf of all children:

*Respect is very special
It's for me and it's for you
We use the word for who we're being
And not for what we do*

Listen with your lips shut
Say "Shhhh" with your hand
Listen with your heart as well
And then you'll understand
Appreciate the things we do
Support us as we try
Do not do what we can do
Let us discover why
Help us be responsible

To stand up tall and free
To make choices and decisions
For an independent me
These 7 ways will give you
A very precious key
To have a loving closeness
And build a stronger me



We have also put Salurri's message to music; the CD comes with the book.

One way you can use these Seven Ways with the children, parents & family professionals with whom you work is to ask the following coaching questions.

1. How can you **Support** these children today?
2. How can you show that you **Appreciate** them?
3. & 4. How can you really **Listen** to, and **Understand** them?
5. How do you **Respect** them?
6. & 7. How are you helping these children grow towards **Responsibility & Independence**?

What implications for your work practices in your playgroups do answers to these questions have?

As parents and family professionals, our long term goal is to grow children with responsibility and independence. By promoting these Seven Ways through children's play at playgroup, we can create positive outcomes for families through

- Building respectful relationships
- Promoting family connectedness and
- Raising healthy, communicating, social & feeling children.

This is just a taste of how to use parentSCOPE's Seven Ways to guide children towards respect through play; you might like to find out more by visiting our website www.parentscope.com.au

So with your new awareness around the Seven Ways: *What's one thing you'll be doing differently in your playgroups as a result of attending this workshop?*