

PARENT INFORMATION

Travelling Along The Classroom Highway

Learning is a life time journey – and some children can go off-track right from the early years if they struggle with boredom, lack focus, performance anxiety or difficulty sitting still for long enough for the learning to happen.

The Classroom Highway is about the children's learning journey; being able to listen, pay attention and to focus on a task; to develop the emotional skills to approach tasks – even when they **seem** difficult or boring – and to be willing to keep going when they are difficult or boring. There is an emphasis on optimistic thinking and the resilience to bounce back from Learning BUMPS. Sillyness The Speed Wobble features again as BUMP that can also occur in the learning environment.

The 5 Classroom Highway lessons are:

- The Learning Think-Say-Do TOOL
- Sillyness The Speed Wobble Visits The Classroom
- Confident You and Confident Me
- Resilient Supa Thinkers
- Getting Going



The Learning Think-Say-Do TOOL

The emphasis of this lesson is to raise awareness that one of the first tasks as you are travelling along The Classroom Highway is to listen and to pay attention and that there are some learning BUMPS – like distractions – that can interfere with your journey.

The Learning Think-Say-Do TOOL is introduced highlighting Learning Supa Thinkin and how to be focused and attentive. The child who says, "I can't do it," or "It's boring," is generally right – their thinking will determine their success and persistence with learning. 'Whole body listening' is described as a way to be fully engaged with what is being taught.

Sillyness The Speed Wobble Visits The Classroom

Sillyness The Speed Wobble is a major headache in classrooms. It's been met before on The Emotional Highway. In the classroom it's a BUMP that interferes with learning when children lose concentration. They are distracted down a side-track off The Learning Highway and focus on something that's more immediately stimulating or rewarding. The language of 'spotting' Sillyness is used, encouraging children to be able to identify when that type of disruptive behaviour may occur. The ability to not become drawn into the distraction is called 'giving Sillyness the slip', it being a positive spin to developing skills that make the child the boss of their own behaviour. The phrase 'being bossed by Sillyness' is used to describe the behaviour in action.

Confident You and Confident Me

This lesson highlights that confidence is an ally in the learning journey, and normalises mistake-making as a routine and valuable part. The Confidence Think-Say-Do TOOL emphasises the importance of Supa Thinkin in positively approaching new tasks and having a go, regardless of the outcome. The 'Say' part of The TOOL focuses on having the confidence to ask for help, and normalises this as also being a routine part of learning. The focus of the 'Do' is having 'whole body confidence' – and exploring what that means through role play. The overall emphasis is on thinking confidently about your ability to learn, not being distracted by focusing on what others are achieving and determinedly asking for assistance when needed so that you can achieve your best.

Resilient Supa Thinkers

The children, again, are meeting the word 'resilience' and its relevance to learning; being able to persist when something's difficult, to re-engage after a set-back, and to be optimistic about achieving success. Meeting Learning BUMPS is normalised, and as on the other Highways, they come in different sizes. Once again the important role of one's thinking in being able to remain focused and not to dramatise the BUMP encountered, and to take a solution-focused approach to working it out, is the aim.

Supa Thinkin is The TOOL and the ally in this and is contrasted to the BUMP of Stinkin Thinkin. Calming Down is the next TOOL which assists the Supa Thinkin and gives a holistic package of emotional self-management.

Getting Going

The emphasis of this lesson is the motivation to start on the learning journey, and then the persistence to keep on going. The children are introduced to words such as 'persistence' and 'grit' - and their significance in the learning journey. That all aspects of learning won't have the same appeal to all children is normalised, and feeling different levels of motivation for various classroom activities is a BUMP – not a reason to give up. The metaphor of petrol in the tank being what keeps the car – and the learner – on the Highway is used. Supa Thinkin is a TOOL that fills up your tank – unlike Stinkin Thinkin which drains the petrol right out.

Reflection Point: As a child, what did you find easy... and hard as you travelled through your many classroom learning experiences? Were you a daydreamer? Easily bored? Did you ask for help? All of those experiences determine ongoing connection to the joy and love of learning. Does completing a course now, as an adult, fill you with joy? What happens to your thinking when you're learning as a parent or in the workplace? Are you a Learning Supa Thinker or a Learning Stinkin Thinker?