

Parents! Help your child to excel

*Principal Amar Singh**

** Khalsa Elementary School, 5987 Prince Albert Street, Vancouver. B. C. V5N 3E2 Canada.*

In this article I would like to draw the attention of parents to certain areas in which they can help their children. At the same time I would like to caution them that their help should not be detrimental to their children's mental growth. This mental growth comes from the child's independent activities of research and creativity. Interference in this area will be detrimental for the child's mental growth.

Keep the home environment congenial to education. It makes indelible impression on the mind of a child. Every word that is spoken at home shapes the child's personality. A child accumulates these words to build up his own vocabulary, which is the strength of his language. He not only builds his language with these words, but also builds his personality. Sweet and smooth words help the child to develop a sweet language and behavior.

This is home education, which begins instinctively at the early age of a child. It plays a very important role in shaping the behavior of a child. From this home environment a child learns spontaneous lessons of truth or falsehood, honesty or deceit. The base for physical, mental, moral and spiritual-education is laid at home by the parents. It may be called instinctive education.

'Coercive' education should also begin at home. Educated parents can impart basics of education by sparing about one hour for their children everyday. Adopt play methods that make education impulsive and interesting. No indications, however mild they may be, should be made to the expectations that will create fear and anguish in the mind of the child. Stammering, headaches low temperatures, breathing difficulties, vomiting and belching are a few of the many problems created by demanding parents. All these enigmas can be easily side-tracked by making education instinctive and a natural process.

Parents can help their child to develop a desire for goodness and eagerness for knowledge. Child's capacity for friendship can be increased by helping the child to make more friends and getting along with them. Of course, this has to be done carefully because their society will influence the child. Appreciation for neatness and beauty can be inculcated and developed by keeping the house environment neat and beautifully decorated. Even a little obedience balloons with appreciation, but not with coercion. It develops and establishes firmly at young age in the home environment.

Early education at home inculcated and stabilizes a personality that may not be swayed by any wrong company that he may come across in the school or outside. His well founded eagerness for knowledge will help him to converge his attention and concentration. He will settle down in school in no time. Making friends will not be a problem to him. Establishing eagerness for knowledge with the help of educational material and beautiful books is the prime duty of parents. Money spent on education material and beautiful books is well spent. Picture books arouse the senses of sight and curiosity in a child. This is a real investment that helps a child to inculcate

and stabilise positive inclinations in life. These positive inclinations and habits will help a child to reach heights of knowledge and realize his goals of life. This will also precipitate the child's mental growth and help him to probe into the heights of wisdom. Even after entering school, home education remains as important as ever. Home education supplements school education and intensifies propensity for education. Do talk to teachers of your children and perceive that they have the patience to listen to your child, appreciation for his efforts and faith in his goodness and abilities. Even a little appreciation for the efforts of a child precipitates encouragement.

Try to develop a sense of mission in your child by talking to him and giving references of those people who had established a mission in childhood and succeeded when they became adults. This sense of mission will help a child to converge and muster all his activities towards education. This will bring out his best spontaneously. Training a child to organise his time and work is another aspect of his personality that will really boost his abilities and lead him towards success. He must have the urge in him to complete all his work every day and not leave it for some other time. Doing homework every day is the secret to score good marks and be successful in education. This habit of organizing time and whatever work that has to be done helps a child throughout his life. It is the secret of success.

To make discipline intuitive, impulsive and spontaneous it should be given a tincture of holy reverence. It helps a child to assimilate it in his life. Discipline should be extended into the area of sex also and a touch of holy reverence must be implied. This tint of holy reverence will help a child to contain his impulses within the area of consistence. It will help him to build an impressive personality.

While helping your child in any subject, give him such activities that will help him in mental growth. We would like to see Khalsa School children become outstanding in the world in creativity and give this world something new that has not been created. This is creativity. We must put our share in the creative activities, discoveries and inventions of this world. Just to quote an example, once I asked a student, Hardeep Singh, who was aspiring to go into chemical engineering to give me his reasons of going into this field. His answer was, "As there is a lot of research going on in this area, I would like to give something new to this world."

A School with A Difference: Dagshai Public School

Symbiosis of Science & Spirituality

*Tejinderjit Singh and Ms. Simran Singh**

** Principal and Vice Principal, DPS, P.O. Dagshai 173210. Himachal Pradesh.*

With every individual the odyssey of life starts afresh and as he meanders through the complicated maze of myriad experiences, trials and tribulations, life's incredible and invaluable lessons are unveiled. Life can never be comprehended backwards, it has to be necessarily lived forward to acquire a multi-faceted amalgam of knowledge, wisdom, skills, attitudes and values.

Education is both a process and a product, which leads to the transmission of traditional values heritage, personality development and last, but not the least, its purpose should be to exact liberation or self actualization. Spiritualism is an integral part of man's entity. Therefore it is an integral part of education, which makes an individual grow, blossom and ascend.

Bhai Sahib Bhai Raghbir Singh Ji Bir, an eminent spiritualist, visionary, freedom fighter and a prolific writer was inspired to launch a school with a difference which would cater to every aspect of a child's evolution, harmoniously blending on a common platform formal education with intense spiritual and moral awareness. If its need was felt nearly half a century ago, when Dagshai Public School was actually founded (1957), how dire then is its applicability in the contemporary context, needs no special emphasis.

To strengthen the positive impulses in society and inspire individuals to lead lives of purpose and dignity is our primary objective. Under the aegis of the Atam Science Trust, the school is governed by a team of eminent educationists, administrators, technocrats and dedicated civil servants.

The carefully planned curriculum of Dagshai Public School ensures a close interaction between the teacher and the taught, enabling a richer all – round development of children. Creativity and aesthetics are encouraged simultaneously with scientific technology and computer education. Art, Painting, Craft, Music, Dancing, Elocution, Dramatics receive as much attention as Athletics, Yoga, Games and Sports, Students are encouraged to augment classroom instruction through project work, excursions and field trips. Environmental issues and community service is an integral part of our school education, preparing its young inmates to adopt more responsible attitudes as future adult members of society. Adequate accent is also laid on leadership qualities through the prefectorial system.

Nestling in the picturesque southern reaches of Shimla Hills, at an altitude of 6000 ft. in the midst of tall pine trees, Dagshai Public School enjoys a totally pollution-free, salubrious and invigorating ambience. Spread over 30 acres of land, the school boasts of extensive hostel areas, playgrounds and an academic block atop a solitary hill. The School can be approached within 28 Kms from Kalka and 60 Kms from Chandigarh. It can be accessed from the Kalka - Shimla highway.

The counseling support offered at our school for behavioral problems and maladjustment is a sincere initiative to help the youngsters adapt to changing times and values. The inmates of the campus enjoy a sound emotional health.

The school is affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, and admits children from 4 yrs onwards. The school is also on the panel of schools approved for admission of foreign students by Indian High Commissions and Embassies in U.S.A. U.K., Canada, Thailand, Germany and other countries. Subjects of study include English, Hindi, Punjabi, History, Civics, Geography, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) Economics, Commerce, Physical Education, Computer Science, Arts and Craft, General Knowledge. Music (Vocal and Instrumental), Value Education and Socially Useful Productive work.

Under the supervision of well qualified hostel wardens, hostel prefects and workers assisting them, the school has well maintained separate hostels for boys of junior, middle and senior school. The girls are housed in a separate hostel. Recreation and indoor games are well provided in the hostel with a specific attention to sanitation and the child's personal hygiene and health.

A well balanced, nutritious diet delectably prepared conforms to the requirements of the growing children. The School Mess committee is adequately represented by children from class-II upwards and they are given a free hand to plan the weekly menu.

Health care of the students is satisfactorily accomplished with periodical check ups by a doctor and full time qualified nurse.

The School boasts of 1:15 teacher student ratio. The academic faculty comprises of well qualified, professionally trained teaching staff from different parts of India who mostly reside on the school campus. While dealing with a class of heterogeneous students special care is taken to look into the progress of the under-achievers and the less motivated children. Our cent percent results at the I.C.S.E. Board level, with cent per cent I Divisions, is no small achievement. Our academic success, each year, rests primarily on the personalized attention given to each student.

There is thorough supervision and centralization of education. After formal school hours prep classes, home work classes and extra coaching goes on in the Academic Block.

No stone is left unturned to promote and enhance the moral and spiritual development of the children. At dawn the rendition of *Kirtan* and Meditation through tapes commences the day for our children. Morning and Evening services in the Pray House, are conducted by the children themselves under the supervision of a Divinity Teacher. Obeisance is paid to the Guru Granth Sahibji which contains the *shlokas* of some 30 Hindu and Muslim Saints in addition to the inspired renderings of six Sikh Gurus.

The appropriate interpretation of the Guru Granth Sahib becomes a great unifying factor. A secular outlook prevails in the school atmosphere which is the crux of *gurbani*. Moral values are inculcated in the Value Education Classes. Annual Spiritual Camps are held to evoke greater spiritual involvement from the students. Children are also invited to attend special devotional programmes scheduled for the ambrosial hour. The turnout of students and their intense enthusiasm is quite creditable. They are at liberty to pose queries and clear their doubts. The school motto, '*Shubh karman te kab-hu na tarun*' (May I never refrain from righteous deeds) forms the very basis of our children's ethical development.

A constant proximity with our children keeps us ever young and vibrant, making our modest efforts the most satisfying and challenging of all experiences, while looking forward to new visions and tasks.

