




The Middle Years.....





.....Change & Challenge







What's different about the Middle Years ?

- Identify strongly with peers
- Seek greater independence – step away from parents!
- Are more impulsive; can be less attentive
- Seek challenge and relevance in learning
- More rights-oriented; more attention-seeking
- Keen to develop relationships/rapport
- Brain development – “What’s going on there?!”

What do we need to consider?

- Recognise that our middle years learners are increasingly *disengaged* with schooling – the gap between high and low achievers widens Yrs 5-9
- Accept that they are not yet adults, but not children either – their needs are unique
- Be willing to alter some of our : teaching/parenting/advisory styles and practices to connect with this group – *communication* is key!






The 5R's: to Engage, Inspire and Motivate!

(Dr David Smith, 2008 – review of Middle Years literature for NSWDEC)

Whatever our connection with this age group, they need:

- Relationships
- Relevance
- Responsibility
- Rigour
- Resilience

Where do we go from here?

- Well-developed *understanding* of the needs of this gp.
- Multi-layered, *collaborative tasks*: connected to ‘real world’; consider *learning styles & learning differences*
- *High but achievable expectations* – school, community
- Strong *modelling/scaffolding* of knowledge/skills – to increase mastery, self-esteem, self-efficacy, resilience
- Male/female *role models* – within school & community
- Strong emphasis on *goal-setting* and ‘*chunking*’



Angie Wilcock – High Hopes Educational Services

Further resources:

The Transition Tightrope – Angie Wilcock, Routledge 2013

How to Motivate your Child for School and Beyond – Dr Andrew Martin, Bantam (Random House) 2003

Our Middle Years Learners – Engaged, Resilient, Successful – NSW Dept of Education & Communities



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