

**IB PYP Parents**  
**Supporting your Child to Develop the Learner Profile Attributes**

Learning doesn't just occur in the school context of course! So, what can parents and families do to help their children keep developing the 10 Learner Profile attributes when the children aren't at school? Here are some ideas for home and holidays.

**Be INQUIRERS!**

- Visit the library regularly and encourage your child to choose fiction and non-fiction, and explore hobbies and interests.
- Spend time with your child, researching a concept or interest online – teach them at the same time how to search safely, and be discerning about information they find.
- Model being an inquirer to your child – if you don't know, admit it! Say, "I don't know the answer to that yet. Take time to find out new things together. Ask questions. Find information and discuss it. Reflect on what you have learned together.

**Be THINKERS!**

- Got a problem or issue that needs to be solved at home? Ask your child to come up with some possible solutions.
- Take time to talk about current events and what they might mean to your family, or community, or the world.
- Ask lots of questions to get your child thinking. What is the issue that needs to be solved? How can we start to solve it? Can we do it in a different way? I haven't thought about that solution before, tell me all about your idea! How did we do, solving this? Is there anything else we could have tried? Would that have been a better idea? Why?

**Be KNOWLEDGEABLE!**

- If your child has an interest, encourage them to find out more about it. Go further into interests.
- Get your child interested in a local event or issue. How can they find out more? What action could they take?
- Initiate conversations in the car, ask your child's opinion, find out why they think as they do, ask them to tell you about school/ideas/ambitions etc.
- What is happening in the world today? Has it happened in the past? Should it be happening now?

**Be COMMUNICATORS!**

- Encourage your child to take opportunities to communicate in the real world – they can order their own lunch, ask a librarian where to find a book, phone a grandparent etc.
- Use different forms of communication! Talk face to face, on the phone, through email or messaging, write a postcard or letter, and visit friends.
- Encourage your child to speak to a wide variety of people – can they read a menu and tell the server their own order? Do they speak politely to the assistant in the shop? Do they know how to ask another child to play?
- Part of being a communicator is listening! Practice being a good listener – face the speaker, eye contact (if comfortable), look interested, ask questions, nod, affirm etc. Model to your child what a good listener looks like.

**Be RISK-TAKERS!**

- Encourage your child to try new things. Try it with them.
- Good risk-takers are prepared! Sir Edmund Hillary didn't climb Everest without the right experience and equipment! If you are encouraging your child to try something new, get them to find out about the activity. How do they need to prepare? Is there a way to be safe? Are there rules or instructions to research? Is it a big risk or just something that makes your child break a habit, or be a little different in their approach to something?

- Discuss how we feel when we take a risk or try something new. Our feelings can sometimes be overwhelming but talking about it helps to control it.
- Encourage new friendships. Meet new people.
- Reflect on the new experience – how was it? How do you feel about it now?

**Be *CARING!***

- Role model caring behaviour – your children will remember what you do and will follow suit. Show that you care for others by using kind words and actions.
- Model problem-solving in a constructive way that your child can see and hear.
- Give your child some responsibility for caring for a pet if you have one.
- Depending on your child's age, they can start to look wider at the local and wider community – what organisations care for people, animals, and the environment? How can they help?
- Role model empathy and talk about why we need to care. Ask them how they would feel in someone else's situation.

**Be *REFLECTIVE!***

- Use the language of reflection in your home. "Hmm, could I have done that differently? How? What would have happened if I ...?"
- Ask your child for their opinion. Value their responses and ask them why they think that way.
- Reflect on habits and routines, for example, if screen time is too long, reflect together on why screen time should be shortened, why it's important to spend time in other activities, and how our bodies need activity!
- When you are trying something new with your child, reflect together on how things are going. "You did that really well! What did you enjoy the most? What was tricky? Do you think we should try it a little differently next time? Tell me what you think!"

**Be *BALANCED!***

- A fun place to start is cooking together. Take the opportunity to talk about healthy food and treats and how to balance these. Children who help prepare food will often be more open to trying new foods.
- Keep a record of how you spend leisure time as a family – how long on screens? How long in physical activity? How long are they following hobbies like reading, or cooking, or biking, or karate? See if your child can find an area they might need to spend more time on.
- Are you balanced in your own life? Does your child see you taking time to read, or pray, or be physically healthy, or have a treat? What you value, they will probably also value.

**Be *PRINCIPLED!***

- Talk about issues as they arise and encourage your child to make age-appropriate decisions.
- Encourage participation in sports and games. Look for fair play, supportive play, and a good attitude to both winning and losing.
- Be a good sport on the sideline – parents need to encourage and support, and the children need to hear and see principled behaviour.
- Talk about doing the *right thing, even when no one else is looking!* Being comfortable with our own values and principles is a good way to live! If you are not living your principles, you can feel out of sorts. Discuss what your family values in their lives.

*Enjoy your time with your children!*