



How do we talk about learning?

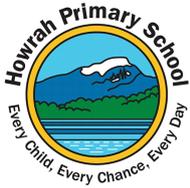
An introduction to the Learning Assets. By Kath Murdoch

Like all communities, people in schools have a language they use to help everyone feel connected and to enable consistent and clear communication. As educators, we know the words we use have a great deal of power. What we say and how we say it helps shape a child's view of themselves as a learner and their understanding of learning itself. At Howrah Primary, much of the language we use relates to the "Learning Assets". You may have heard your child and their teacher talking about these 'assets' and wondered what they are all about...

There are five assets. As effective learners, we need to be

THINKERS,
SELF MANAGERS,
COMMUNICATORS,
RESEARCHERS and
COLLABORATORS.

It can be useful to imagine each of us having a kind of 'tool kit' we draw on to learn something. Now, think of that tool kit as having 5 compartments (communication, thinking, etc) In each compartment we have a range of skills and ways of being (attitudes or dispositions) that are ASSETS to us as a learner. Different learning situations require different skills and attitudes but growing and sharpening those 'tools' over time makes us stronger learners. So let's take a quick look inside each 'compartment:'



Being a **SELF MANAGER** is such an asset! Some of the skills you need include being able to stay focussed, manage your time and be organised. This is also about being a responsible and resilient person.

COLLABORATING It is a powerful asset. This includes being able to compromise, take turns and take on different roles in a team. It helps too, if you are kind and reliable.

We all need to be **RESEARCHERS** these days! This means learning how to do things like asking the right question or deciding whether a source of information is trustworthy. It also helps to be curious and courageous.

Effective **COMMUNICATION** is a vital asset for learning. We need to learn to listen actively, respond appropriately to others and get our message across in different ways. Good communicators are responsive and respectful.

Finally, building our skills as **THINKERS** is the key to deep learning. Some thinking skills include being able to analyse, predict and imagine – and it really helps to be open-minded and flexible.

These assets are not just for our children. We never stop learning – and we learn at school, at work or at home. You can help your child at home by using this language with them – even about yourself. “Hmmm, the WIFI doesn’t seem to be working. I will have to be think flexibly today and work differently!” It is also very powerful to use this language as you notice your child showing them in some way: “I noticed how well you shared with your sister when you were playing with the lego. Great collaborating!”

The lovely thing about the assets is that children can strengthen them all day, every day, whether we are doing school related tasks or simply setting the table for dinner.

Enjoy talking about learning with your child!