



Top 5 Tips for Increasing Confidence in Your Children at Home by Helen Davey, Executive Principal

While we are all spending a lot of time at home with our kids, parenting AND home-schooling here are some great ideas for increasing and maintaining their confidence:

1. Praise for a Reason



Children need plenty of encouragement, but don't overdo the compliments!

- ✓ Praise children appropriately for the occasion, with specific feedback. For example, rather than saying "Good job" for completing their work, point out **what** is good, i.e., "I like your use of colour in that drawing," or "You used such an expressive voice when reading today."
- ✓ Don't praise children for doing things they are supposed to do. When they brush their teeth, or take out the rubbish, a simple "thank you," is sufficient!

2. Allow Children to Make Mistakes

It's natural to want to prevent your child from getting hurt, feeling discouraged, or making mistakes, but when you intervene - it's not doing them any favours.



- ✓ Kids need to know that it's okay to fail, and that it's normal to feel sad, anxious, or angry. They learn from their mistakes and by overcoming challenges, not by having them removed.
- ✓ It's important for children to have the chance to take risks and try new things, without feeling that their parents will criticize or correct them for doing something wrong!
- ✓ It can be good for children to see their parents making little mistakes from time to time also, without a big fuss being made about it! If children know mistakes aren't the end of the world, they will be less likely to avoid trying new things based on a fear of failure

3. Give Children Responsibilities

One of the ways children gain confidence is by doing jobs and helping to keep the family house in order!

- ✓ Assign daily or weekly tasks to children that can be achieved successfully. The sense of accomplishment that comes with completing this responsible task is a great confidence booster.

4. Let Your Children Make Decisions

If children get the chance to make choices, they'll gain confidence in their own good judgment.

- ✓ Rather than giving them a 'free reign', give children two or three options to choose from. (At the same time, let your child know certain choices are up to you only!)
- ✓ Over time, making 'good' choices will become much easier and children will have the confidence to trust their own decisions.

5. Nurture Interests

When possible, expose your child to a wide variety of activities, and encourage them when they find something they really love to do.

- ✓ Kids who have a passion -- whether it's karate, cooking or drama - feel proud of their expertise and are more likely to be successful in other areas of their life. Find an online class to do during your time at home.
- ✓ Hobbies may be particularly helpful for children who have a hard time adjusting to being at home more - and you can also help your child take advantage of this interest to connect with other kids with similar likes during the online courses!

