

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

Foundation for Inspired Learning Newsletter

November 2007

In This Issue

**Parents are Natural
Inspired Learning
Facilitators**

**A Message From Our
Executive Director**

Parent-Focused Training

**The Y.E.L.P. Pilot Program -
A Success Story for Youth**

Please Join Us

Invitationals for Parents

**Point of View - What
Others Have to Say**

**Request For Donations -
Prior to December 31,
2007**

Quick Links

Register Now

Newsletter Archive

Related Topics

More About Us

Join our list

Dear Marcy,

Parents are Natural Inspired Learning Facilitators

Hello Inspired Supporters & Visitors,

**I am so honored to be able to discuss
the Inspired Learning Model as it
relates to parents.**



Parents and guardians as well as grand parents already know the principles of the Inspired Learning Model as they relate to supporting the learning process of their child in the home environment. Unfortunately, our old 'traditional, conditioned learning support' often takes over our natural response to support our child's learning. I invite you as parents to return to your natural instincts to support your child's learning. Let's support this together.

So, what is Inspired Learning? What are the natural principles you already know as parents? How can you better support your child's learning? What needs to be released and what needs to be remembered?

Inspired Learning is a learning philosophy that celebrates the learning process, without critique or criticism.

Remember when your child took their first step, said their first word, ate their first spoonful of solid food.....your natural response was CELEBRATION, you jumped up and down, you called family members, took pictures and gave your child a huge smile of love and appreciation. Each of these spontaneous, natural actions acknowledged your child for this particular step in the learning process. What was not present in this spontaneous and natural celebration was critique or criticism.

Our "traditional learning" has conditioned us as parents

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(mostly without us knowing it) to begin to point out what our children have gotten wrong so they can focus on correcting what they got wrong. This approach to support learning has been passed down for generations without question or challenge. I call this "traditional learning" the critique and criticism model of supporting our children to learn. The critique and criticism model is NOT the natural and spontaneous way we support learning. Our assumption has been that this is the means to accelerate our child's learning. I have personally observed, over the past 12 years, that the critique and criticism model actually slows down the learning process, while the Inspired Learning Model accelerates the learning process - and with greater joy for the child as well as the parent.

The principles for you to remember in your role as an Inspired Learning parent are:

- ***Acknowledge and encourage what your child is interested in learning.***
- ***Ask them what they are curious about.***
- ***Celebrate what they have learned and the skills they are beginning to do.***
- ***Completely release all critique and criticism (that is, release the old conditioned learning support you grew up with, that point out what they got wrong or what they do not know yet.)***

The celebration and encouragement you give your children will support them to want to learn more. They know there is more to learn and they know by you pointing out and reinforcing what is correct. There are parts that they still want to learn. Think of this as highlighting what they are beginning to understand.

Beginning to learn new knowledge and skills is fragile and confusing, perhaps even overwhelming. What was your child's immediate response to your cheering their first step, word, mouthful of solid food? Yes, you can see your child's enthusiasm to do it again, try it again and they got better at it with repeated practice.

Acknowledging what your child has done correctly or begun to understand reinforces your child's fragile

learning and it says to them, "You are doing great. You are learning this. You can do this. Keep up the great work. Keep trying. I am here to celebrate every step of your learning. I love being a witness to your growing mastery."

So, I say to you, the Inspired Learning parent, "You are doing great at celebrating your child's learning. You are learning this Inspired Learning Model. You can do this, it's natural. You can become good at this - you accelerate your mastery and your child's mastery every time you acknowledge what your child got right. Keep up the great work. Keep trying even when you may have slipped into a critique. I am here to celebrate every step of your learning how to better support your child's learning. I love being a witness to your growing mastery as an Inspired Learning parent!"

Send me your Inspired Learning parent story so I can join your celebration of mastery at stories@inspiredlearning.org.

Love and respect. *Peter Reding, Founder*

A Message From Our Executive Director

I hope you are enjoying fabulous weather wherever you are and are looking forward to the holidays.

I am so thrilled to be here and really thrilled to be devoting this newsletter to parents.

If you are a parent or guardian, I want to acknowledge you for everything you are doing to make learning a fun and inspiring experience for your children.

We have had several recent requests to create a training program specifically for parents, and are currently considering what this might look like. I would love to hear your ideas.

If you are a teacher and work closely with parents, I would also like to connect with you and hear your ideas.

We are also starting to bring the Inspired Learning Model to youth. This past year, I was honored to be involved in the co-creation of a talent-based program for at-risk youth. This 2-day workshop took place on October 20-21 in Los Angeles-- see the article in this newsletter for more detailed information.

Until next time, thank you everyone and I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Marcy Johnsrude, Executive Director

Parent-Focused Training

Taking the Inspired Learning Model Into the Home

We have had several discussions with parents and teachers over the past year about creating a program specifically for parents.

While many parents have taken our facilitator training and we are hearing the wonderful stories about their success using the Inspired Learning Model, we think it's time to roll out a program specifically geared to parents.

We want to create a program designed with you in mind, so have been looking at various options. We are also aware of your limited time and want to make it easy for you.

So, if you have some ideas and/or you are interested in being part of a team established to create a program for parents, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org. We would love to get started early in the new year.

The Y.E.L.P. Pilot Program - A Success Story for Youth

We are honored to report that the first Y.E.L.P. (Youth Entrepreneur Leadership Program) took place in Los Angeles, California on October 20-21, 2007. Thirteen youth attended the dynamic weekend and walked away with a new perspective of self and responsibility.

The workshop was the result of a year long collaboration between the Foundation for Inspired Learning, Career Dreams Educational Foundation and the Training Dynamics Network to create a talent- based program for 11-17 year old at-risk youth.

A key concept behind Y.E.L.P. is that everyone is naturally brilliant and unique and fully capable of achieving his or her dreams. What we did was provide the opportunity and a skills-based toolkit (leadership, communications, chairmanship, teambuilding, inspired learning, and more) for a group of youth to discover this for themselves. Our intent is that every Y.E.L.P.

workshop help participants to:

- Develop self-confidence and self-awareness, and have a better idea of who they are and their purpose in life;
- Understand they are truly brilliant at something, and can achieve their dreams;
- Realize they are personally responsible for their success, education, experience and choices in making their dreams a reality;
- Set a clear course of action to get the education and experience needed to achieve their dreams; and
- Acquire the ability to communicate their talents, passions and dreams to their teachers, parents and their community.

Here's what some of the youth at the Los Angeles workshop had to say about what they learned from the Program:

- "I have learned to have much more of an open mind and that I can do anything I want if I just put my mind to it."
- "I learned how to be a good public speaker and leader."
- "I have learned to appreciate myself more. I learned what I wanted to be and how to be a leader."
- "To respect others and myself."

Considering that we were hearing from some of tomorrow's leaders, what a fantastic beginning for the Y.E.L.P. Program! Many kudos to Tim Dias for being the glue and keeping us moving forward and to Gregory Braendel, David Kitchen, Roger Cox, Marlene Martin and Marcy Johnsrude for making it a reality.

If you know of a group of youth who could benefit from the Program, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org.

Please Join Us

December 12, 2007

The **Inspired Learning Model Facilitator Forum** is held the 2nd Wednesday of each



month at 9:00 AM Pacific Time, unless otherwise indicated
Dial (218) 486-1300 code:497588

February 21, 2008

New Inspired Learning Facilitator Certification Program:

Take the Fast Track to Certification in 2008 Are you inspired to do and be more? Do you want to participate in bringing the powerful philosophy of the Inspired Learning Model™ to the World? Are you interested in establishing yourself as a credible expert with a high professional standard, expressed through certification? Please see "Why Become Certified" on our website www.inspiredlearning.org.

Whether you have already taken the 12- week facilitator course or you are just learning about the Inspired Learning Model, this program is for you.

This program puts you on the fast track to certification and consists of the following:

- 3 weeks of self-guided learning or review of the handbook depending on where you are in your learning of the Model, exercises to guide you in each of the Standards of Presence, and pairing up with a co-facilitator.
- 6 weeks of 90-minute teleclasses from 4:00 -5:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, beginning on February 21, 2008 and ending May 1, 2008, plus three 4-hour sessions, and one hour of being coached by one of the facilitators; and
- the opportunity to deliver your own co-facilitated class that integrates the elements of the Inspired Learning Model and also participate in the inspired learning sessions of your classmates. And, an opportunity to present and be acknowledged for a recording of a session you do outside the Program.

In our commitment to provide an experience that deepens your learning, we are limiting the number of participants so, please register before December 19, 2007 at http://www.inspiredlearning.org/register_certification.php to ensure a seat in the Program.

Please note that this Certification Program will not require any travel - it will be conducted via teleclass and other virtual technologies such as e-mail and live, interactive webinars.

If you have any questions, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Invitationals for Parents

Over the years, we have conducted a number of invitationals aimed at business leaders, educators and others. We have also hosted some at the request of a specific group of people.

The results have been powerful; the feedback, positive, grateful and filled with an energy that connected each of the participants to their love of being and doing.

Just think of the magnificence of attending an invitation created specifically for a group of parents. If you would like to sponsor 12-24 parents in a 1 1/2 day Inspired Learning forum, please contact marcyjohnsrude@inspiredlearning.org to discuss particulars.

Point of View - What Others Have to Say

Reigniting Fires of Passion - Amber West

For a moment, I invite you to bring into your mind's eye the essence of childhood. I encourage you to close your eyes and take a moment (or two!) to breathe in this essence. I'm almost assured that when you open your eyes a smile is bestowed upon your face and joy is emanating from your being. Keeping this bliss at heart, I ask you now to envision the innate desire of exploration, understanding, and learning that is interweaved into every moment of every day. Notice the pure elation that comes forth with the discovery of an object, idea or feeling for the very first time. Become conscious of the boundless energy with which this all takes place. This love of learning is so innate that it reverberates as truth during childhood. This learning is what gives us our first understanding of the world around us and our earliest grasp of the meaning of life. So why, I am drawn to question, does this love of learning often fade as we grow older? Has it died? Or is it still inside waiting for a spark to rekindle a fire of inspiration?

From my experiences as a teacher, life-long learner, and ultimate inquirer, I've come to believe that we are all burning with this innate remembrance, yet it oftentimes fades gradually or even abruptly as the demands of the outer world cause us to lose sight of the inner brilliance and vitality that is brought forth through learning. Yet still, deep within each of us, is a flicker of light waiting

for the perfect environment that will create a spark that will start ablaze the passion in our souls.

My inquiry as to how to create this environment and my belief of the inner brilliance within every soul sent me on a path to become a teacher. For I believed, if our formative years are those that guide us towards forming many or most of our impressions of the world, why not prevent the fire of passion from ever wavering?

Yet as I earned my degree and spent time in the classroom, I realized that many children's fires die much too early. I spent my days struggling and often failing to find a way to rekindle a lasting passion within my students. This then sent me on a sabbatical of truth after graduation as I pondered what route I could go down and what tools I could acquire to become what I truly wanted to be: a fire starter. And brilliantly, the universe answered, as it always does, and guided me to Coach for Life and the Foundation for Inspired Learning.

During my five day initial training, I watched in complete awe as I was given the opportunity, through the Inspired Learning Model, to learn in an environment in which such a safe and thriving atmosphere was created that I became witness to some of the most creative insights and minds that I have ever seen in my life. During these five days all of my dreams and meditations evoked images of fire, images that I knew represented not only my own, but 15 other flames growing into forest fires of passion. And I know at the deepest part of my self that this was not because we were the most creative and brilliant minds in the world (though I feel we all have limitless creativity), but because we were provided with a sacred space to flourish into our own personal, unique selves. And with this realization, all of my inspiration spontaneously flooded back, filling the once gaping hole and overflowing into a pool of passion. I finally found the answer: Inspired Learning™, for it provides the tools for any of us called to do so to be the spark that lights fires.

Although this article appeared in a previous newsletter, we think the message is perfect for our current focus on parents, so we are including it here.

Has the Foundation for Inspired Learning Inspired You? We would love to include your article in a future newsletter. [Let Us Know What You Think!](#)

Request For Donations - Prior to December 31, 2007

Every donation helps the Foundation to fulfill its mission

to help further the Inspired Learning Model's adoption throughout the world. Additionally, our 5-year IRS review period to extend our 501(c)3 status ends on December 31, 2007. The IRS looks for a broad base of financial support to approve an organization to retain its public non-profit status. I personally appreciate your past generous financial support and thank you for your continuing financial support.

Love and respect.

Peter Reding

We would like to acknowledge Board Members Marlene Martin, Robert Stack and Peter Szabo for their continued work.

Marcy Johnsrude
Foundation for Inspired Learning

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