Independence

A Requirement for Educational Attainment
Defining Independence

• Self-governance
• Not relying on someone else
• Not looking to others for an opinion or guidance
• To be self-sufficient, self-dependent, self-reliant, and self-supporting
What do we know about Independent Children?

- Intrinsically motivated
- Higher levels of self-esteem
- Better self-image
- More confident
- Make better choices
- Better decision makers
- More compassionate
Independent Children become Independent Learners

- Independent children are better able to work on their own
  (intrinsic motivation)
- Independent children are better able to master new skills and knowledge
  (self-esteem, self-image)
- Independent children learn more efficiently
  (confidence)
- Independent children are better able to handle failure
  (better choices)
- Independent children are better able to solve problems in daily life
  (better decision makers)
- Independent children are better able to handle stress
  (compassionate)
Independence is not something that children can gain on their own. They have neither the perspective, experience, nor skills to develop independence.
Independence Development

A Psychological Perspective
A traditional psychological explanation.....

- Birth order
- Physical condition
- Developmental issues
- Intellectual potential
- Maturity
Independence

• Free from outside control
• Not depending on another's authority
• Ability to exercise autonomy
• Development of the uniqueness of every child
Critical Psychological Perspective

- Explores questions regarding meaning, values, experience, and culture
  - Phenomenological/Experiential
  - Relational Encounter
  - Role of Creativity
  - Idiosyncratic developmental Pathways
  - Development of unconscious resources
Phenomenological/Experiential

• Freedom and independence
• Valuing personal experience
Relational Encounter

- Individual experience can only be found through the encounter with an “other”
- Paying attention
Role of Creativity

• Creativity as a pathway to independent thinking and action
• Self expression as an opening to self understanding
Idiosyncratic developmental Pathways

• We all develop differently
• There are no normal children
Development of unconscious resources

- Intuition
- Sense
Back to independence

• To be truly independent is to
  • Come to know yourself
  • Learn to express yourself
  • Learn your own pathways
Independence Development

A Sociological Perspective
Independence development begins in the Family

Parents should encourage:
- A child to participate in events that are meaningful
- A child to set goals

Parents should teach:
- A child that they have control over their lives
- A child self-help skills

Parents should help
- A child develop responsibilities
- A child develop problem-solving skills

Parents should hold a child accountable for their actions

Parents should assist
- A child in developing a sense of right and wrong
- A child in making age-appropriate decisions
What hinders a Child’s ability to develop Independence?

- Authoritarian parenting styles - a style that is characterized by
  - demands
  - strict rules and expectations
  - little feedback
  - harsh punishments (corporal punishment)
  - few choices or options
  - no discussion on matters of any kind
  - control through shaming or the withdrawal of love
  - little warmth or nurturing

- Children of authoritarian parents often display more aggressive behavior, act fearful, have lower self-esteem, and are dependent upon others

(Baumrind, 1966)
What can a teacher (mentor) do to create an independent learner?

• Think critically about intervening when a student asks for help
• Provide positive feedback
• Help students learn from failure - ‘generous encouragement’
• Set purposeful goals and allow students to be active learners
• Allow students to teach others
• Encourage dissenting views in classroom discussions
Independent learners have abilities that will stand them in good stead beyond the classroom. In fact, independent learners return to the world as independent adults.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors or Associate Degrees</td>
<td>7,986</td>
<td>(39%)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Degrees</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>(9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>6,604</td>
<td>(32%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School or less</td>
<td>4,283</td>
<td>(21%)</td>
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## Occupations of Carrollton Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/Hunting</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts/Entertainment</td>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1,313</td>
<td>(9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Health</td>
<td>3,295</td>
<td>(22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance/Real Estate</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,470</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>(3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail/Wholesale</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation/Warehousing</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Income of Carrollton Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 or More</td>
<td>559 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>2,450 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>5,005 (37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $30,000</td>
<td>5,392 (40%)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Income Statistics of Carrollton Residents

• In 2015 the median household income of Carrollton residents was $34,055.00

• 64.6% of K-12 public school students at Carrollton Elementary School participate in the National School Lunch Program
  • To qualify for the free lunch, the child’s family income must be under $15,171.00 (60.1% students at Carrollton Elementary)
  • To qualify for reduced lunch, the child’s family income must be below $21,590.00 (4.6% students at Carrollton Elementary)
Independence development begins in the Family

- The parent who encourages a child to participate in events that are meaningful and helps a child learn to set goals, creates within a child an **intrinsic motivation** that leads to an ability to **work on one’s own** in the classroom.

- The parent who teaches a child they have control over their lives and who teaches self-help skills, instills in a child a **higher self-esteem and a better self-image** that leads to an ability to **master even the most difficult skills and knowledge**.

- The parent who helps a child develop a sense of responsibility and teaches problem-solving skills, helps a child develop **confidence** that leads to an ability to **learn more efficiently**.

- The parent who holds a child accountable for their actions creates a child who can make **better choices** and **better handle failure** of an assignment.

- The parent who helps a child develop their own sense of right and wrong and encourages age-appropriate **decisions** leads to a child’s ability to **solve problems in daily life** and the classroom.

- The parent who does all of this with love and nurturing and without harsh punishments creates a child with **compassion** who can better **handle the stresses related to learning**.