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PARENTING *newsletter*



BEYOND MARKS: RAISING CHILDREN WITH COURAGE, CHARACTER AND COMPASSION

DEAR PARENTS,

Over the past few weeks, many of us have watched young people across the country make headlines. While opinions may differ on the issues being raised, one thing is clear—today's generation is thinking deeply about fairness, accountability, opportunity, and their future. The recent student-led protests, which began over concerns about examination integrity and later expanded into broader conversations about education and opportunities, have sparked discussions in homes, classrooms, and across social media.

As parents, these events invite us to pause and reflect.

Beyond preparing our children to score well in examinations, are we also preparing them to become individuals who can think independently, act with integrity, show compassion, and face life's challenges with courage? Academic success certainly opens doors, but it is character that determines how children walk through them.



CHARACTER IS BUILT IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

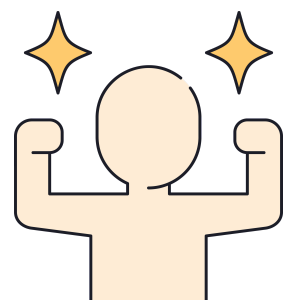
Children learn values not from lectures, but from everyday experiences.

When they see us:

- admitting our mistakes,
- treating others with respect,
- keeping our promises,
- showing kindness,
- standing up for what is right,

they begin to understand what true character looks like.

Everyday moments become lifelong lessons.





WHAT RESEARCH TELLS US

- The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report (2025) identifies resilience, leadership, curiosity, empathy, creative thinking, and lifelong learning among the most important skills for the future workforce.
- The OECD Survey on Social and Emotional Skills found that children with stronger emotional and social skills are more likely to perform well academically, enjoy better mental well-being, and build healthier relationships.
- Research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education highlights that children who experience caring relationships and are encouraged to act with kindness, responsibility, and integrity develop greater confidence and life satisfaction.

These findings remind us that academic excellence and character development go hand in hand—they are not competing goals.

HOW PARENTS CAN NURTURE THESE VALUES:

- ✓ Praise effort, honesty, and perseverance—not just high scores.
- ✓ Encourage respectful discussions and welcome your child's questions.
- ✓ Allow children to make age-appropriate decisions and learn from mistakes.
- ✓ Involve them in household responsibilities and acts of service.
- ✓ Celebrate acts of kindness with the same enthusiasm as academic achievements.
- ✓ Model the behaviour you wish to see—children learn far more from what we do than from what we say.

