

# Square pegs in round holes

**Being a parent is easy,.....when you have easy children.**

If you have children who are fast learners, talented at any activity they put their minds to and able to make friends easily then you can thank your lucky stars that fate dealt you a kind hand. Life tends to contrive against such good fortune so most parents are blessed with a mixed bag.

The parents who have the most difficulty are those with children who just don't seem to fit in at pre school or school. Despite adult efforts to coax and urge them to do their best some children just don't fit into regular childcare or educational settings.

If you have a child who seems to be like the proverbial square peg in a round hole then understanding, persistence and patience are your best parenting tools.

**Understand** your child and the difficulty that he or she may be facing fitting into his social and learning environments. See the world from his or her point of view and continue to give support, encouragement and love.

**Persist** in helping your child find his or her strength, area of interest or favored learning style. Often such children act in ways that make their parents throw their hands up in despair and give up. Don't give in.

**Be patient.** All children excel when they are placed in their right environment – it can just take time for some children to find the environment that suits them.

It is remarkable how many current public achievers and entrepreneurs did not fit into traditional educational environments when they were young. No doubt, there are many parents who are relieved that the children who once gave them so much worry have become some of this country's leaders in business, the arts and sporting life.



## Quick Parenting Quiz

**1. Which of the following practices promote independence and autonomy in children?**

- Let children make choices
- Choose children's clothes for them each day
- Don't rush to solve children's problems
- Encourage children to look for help outside home

**2. According to a recent poll more expectant parents in Western countries prefer to give birth to a boy than a girl.**

True or false.

Answers: 1 a), c) and d) 2 true)

## Vitamins for parents

Four ways to encourage your children every day:

- Tell them that you love them
- Point out at least one thing they do well or have shown improvement in
- Ask for your child's opinion about matters big and small
- Stick a positive message for your child to find – in his bag, lunch box, under his pillow....

## Bright idea



### Be your child's best coach, not his greatest critic

Smart coaches realise that mistakes are part of learning. They point out strengths, before weaknesses, when they give feedback.

The rule of thumb when working with children is to point out three positives for every one negative whether you are helping them learn a skill, improve their behaviour or just getting them to clean up their rooms.

Encouragement combined with practice will ensure your child will improve in any area of life.

## Wise & Witty Words

"In practice, to love people equally you have to treat them very, very differently. Any wise parent knows this."

*Tim Costello*

"This would be a better world for children if parents had to eat the spinach."

*Groucho Marx*