
NOT YET!

Lynn Rupe, ELP, March 2015

Jyles I was delighted to stop and have a fascinating conversation with you when I visited First Steps.

While I was outside you came up to me and asked if I knew about the 'yellow things' and I must admit I was not sure what you meant so I asked you show me the 'yellow things'.

The yellow things turned out to be the monkey bars and you told me, "I don't know how to use the monkey bars." This was just a matter of fact for you and not a statement of I will never but more that actually I just have not learnt this skill yet.

Even though you could not swing from one end of the monkey bars to the other just yet it did not mean that you were not stretching your ability every time you gave it another go. Each time you try new ways of moving on the monkey bars Jyles you are learning about what you body can do.

We had a conversation about what we need to do to conquer tasks that are a little tricky to start with. I asked you Jyles how you had learnt other new skills. I got the sense that this was going to be a continuing conversation



about persevering and effort. One of the other children, Aidan, was moving easily across the monkey bars and I asked him how he learnt to swing so easily. Eventually we all decided that it was practice and continuing to try at tasks that are tricky that allow us to conquer the challenges we set ourselves. In a nutshell we need to practice, practice, practice and to keep on trying.

Jyles undeterred by the fact that you cannot use the monkey bars yet (your words) you went on to show me your koala moves on the pole. You would climb up the pole and ask me to take a photo. The photo had to be just right. Just right included having a very clear view of your face so you had to have several attempts at getting just the right angle of the camera and how you positioned yourself on the pole. This reminded me of the conversations that we had just had about how we have to keep on trying until we get it right.





You were happy to keep climbing up the pole, have me take a photo, climb down, critique the photo and then start again by climbing the pole until you got the photo you were after.

What learning was happening here for Jyles?

Jyles was learning to critique his effort and think about the changes he needed to make to create the success he was looking for. The power of 'not yet' is amazing. Knowing that there are things that we cannot do 'yet' is great as it says we are on a path to accomplish tasks. Jyles this is what we call a growth mindset - the ability to see yourself as someone who is able to learn with practice and persistence. Your ability to critique your work and make improvements is something that all scientist and experimenters do.

Opportunities and possibilities

Jyles I am sure there will be many opportunities for you to critique and refine your work through your day. In the block corner, in the sand pit anywhere where you create the problem.



When David Perkins talks about learning in his book Making Learning Whole he says, "It involves open ended or ill-structured problems and novel, puzzling situations. It's never just problem solving it involves problem finding. It's not just about right answers. It involves explanation and justification. It's not emotionally flat. It involves curiosity, discovery, creativity, camaraderie". These are the dispositions towards learning that you are showing Jyles through your ability to create questions and pose problems.