DEEP LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS @HOME

Learning at Home: A Work in Progress

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Like many educators and parents, we are having a lot of conversations about learning and working at home. With two teenagers that are used to being physically and socially active, this abrupt change has been hard to navigate. It's ironic that their generation has connected digitally, but now it's their only way to remain connected to friends.

LET'S GROW

Our kids are clear about what they don't miss about school: the textbooks and worksheets, work that feels irrelevant, the stress of deadlines, and the lack of choice. They also don't miss the environment: the rules, bells, and uncomfortable furniture.
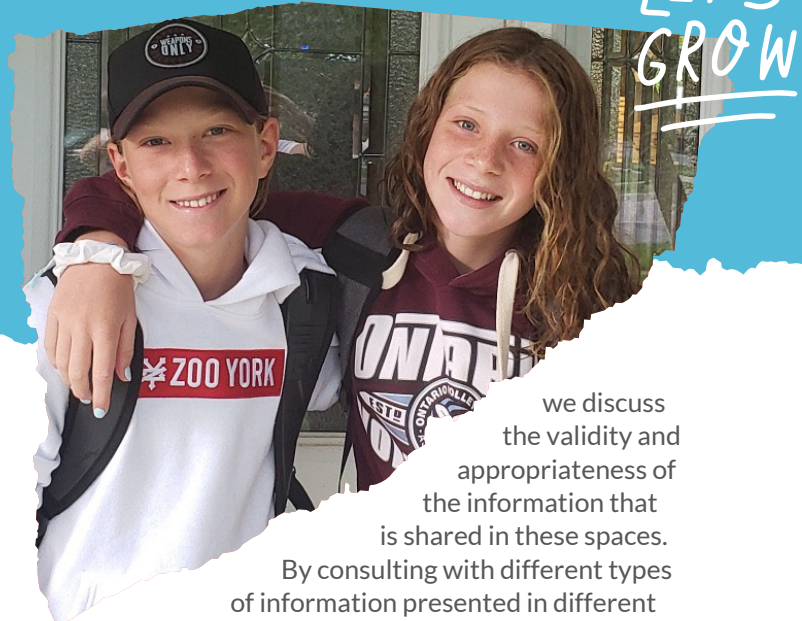
We have talked about the differences between schooling and learning. They understand the difference and prefer the kind of learning that "sticks with you, that may be challenging but is incredibly rewarding." They want to learn about things that are important and relevant to their lives right now.

Here are some insights we are acquiring along the way. Lean into their questions about what is happening in the world today and model how you learn deeply.

We are having rich conversations sparked by their questions such as: What is a pandemic? Where did it start? Are there more of these viruses out there? What is an epicentre? What is herd immunity and how does it work? How and why are different governments reacting differently? Why are different communities being impacted differently?

We are discussing topics such as inequity, privilege, social contracts, empathy, loneliness and moral leadership. In the past we would have similar conversations with our children but now the authenticity and importance of what we are discussing has never been more relevant or meaningful to them.

Of course, as parents, we do not know the answers to all of their questions, but we are intentionally taking time to show them how we go about getting reliable answers and developing understanding. When we go to a source and we do not fully understand the information, we model how we break down information into smaller parts. We show them how we cross-reference information and data. With them, we are looking at media platforms (TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) that teenagers regularly access and

we discuss the validity and appropriateness of the information that is shared in these spaces. By consulting with different types of information presented in different ways, we are showing them how we come to understand a concept or an issue deeply.

Using COVID-19 as a teachable moment at home is allowing my teenage kids to reflect, ask questions, scrutinize, confront myths, and dig deeper. So, the focus around our house has been to tap our kids' critical thinking skills; we are having conversations now they will remember and recall for years to come.

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