

A successful school experience

Parent story

I chose the school primarily because I was impressed with their attitude towards children with a disability.

My favourite quote from the principal is, "We have 400 children with special needs. Every child is special!"

So what has helped my boys have a successful experience at school?

First, I think it was an inherent belief by the school that all children deserved an education that suited their individual needs. This belief was matched by a commitment to work hard to achieve that.

Second, it was the school's willingness to work together with parents. There was respect for what I knew as a parent and consideration of my suggestions about possible improvements to the educational programs. This was also extended to specialists I invited to consult with teachers.

Third, there was good communication. Both aides and teachers communicated regularly. Little issues were dealt with in the early stages before they escalated.

There was also a willingness to try new things and to make changes. The school listened to my suggestions and they were prepared to learn new skills and 'give it a go'.



Student Support Group meetings have usually been well run and useful. I had input into setting the agenda and deciding which of my son's specialists would attend each meeting.

I have made a point of taking time to give positive feedback to teachers and aides. One of the reasons we have a good relationship is because they know I appreciate their efforts. I guess it works both ways.

I can't say that it has all been smooth sailing. There have been some difficult times but overall I have been very happy with what has been put in place for my two boys.

From speaking to other parents, I know that my positive experience at the school is considered to be the exception rather than the rule, and I feel very lucky to have such a committed group of individuals supporting my sons.

Parent