

Talents and Dreams

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In the last video segment of our adventure story, the children learn that each person is special because there are no two people who are exactly alike, and that we can appreciate our uniqueness because we all have something special to offer the world. After once again foiling one of Zor's evil plans, the group says Merlina's magic words ("I am Special") and that unlocks the door, freeing the horses. Merlina then explains to the group that the secret of the horses is that the horses are their special dreams and talents. When we keep them locked inside ourselves, we can't thrive. It's only by freeing our talents and dreams that we're able to realize the special people we are.



The final scene is the assembly at school, with Kelly and the characters in her dream now returned to their student roles; they are telling about the lessons they learned in the dream adventure. Jerome and Yes-Yes look on, their mission with the children accomplished.



You can reinforce the uniqueness of your own child in these ways:

1. While avoiding comments that compare a child unfavourably ("I don't understand why you can't do this math. Your brother was so good at it"), seek out opportunities to comment on your child's unique talents and gifts. "You seem to learn new songs on the guitar quickly". "I've noticed that you have really been reading a lot of books lately".
2. When your child shares with you his or her innermost dream for the future, acknowledge the dream without commenting on your own evaluation of his ability to achieve it. You can be honest but not judgmental by saying "Maybe you will". Or "If you work hard toward that goal, you may be able to achieve it". Remember, children try dreams on for size and they will go through a lot of changes as they learn some of the lessons of life. However, every goal begins with a dream. Refrain from saying, "I'm sure you can do that". That may not be true and may hold the child to the false expectation that he must achieve it. It may be better to leave room for refining and adjusting the goal without potentially disappointing mom or dad along the way.
3. Value your child as he or she is. One of the hardest tasks for us as parents is to accept that our child has goals different from those we would choose. Accept that your child has her own unique combination of strengths, goals, talents and dreams, and that her happiness depends on pursuing these goals, not yours. If you are successful with this task, and applaud her accomplishments as she sees them, you will enjoy the relationship that you always "dreamed" of having.
4. During these last few weeks, you may have recognized one or two areas that you have found lacking in your own self-esteem bank. If so, congratulate yourself for your keen awareness that your child looks to you as a role model, and that the efforts you make in improving your own self-esteem are a gift you give to two people: yourself and your child.

This brings to a close the Free the Horses Program. We hope you and your child have enjoyed this program. If you have any feedback I would appreciate hearing from you. You can email me at nzadorozny@rockyview.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Zadorozny & The Grade Two Team
Child Development Advisor