


The unLibrarian



Everyday Magic with Kids
The Hidden Curriculum
of Childhood

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Everyday Magic

Hello and welcome to one of The unLibrarian's presentations of a MySillyWinks project on Everything Magic with Kids. I'm going to talk about the hidden curriculum of childhood as homeschooling has become a topic in many circles given Covid. One of the concepts that trained educators learn about is hidden curriculum. That is that's one of the things that they go in to the classroom knowing how to teach is hidden curriculum well here I share with you what you can do with your kids since you they're still exposed to proper hidden curriculum to develop their soft skills needed in life such as time management and resilience as a parent you have the opportunity every day to share your habits with your kids. I call these opportunities everyday magic. Because it is truly magical how little habits make such a big difference over the long term. Let me explain a bit of how to demonstrate your everyday magic see kids so they can learn foundational habits.

Hidden Learning

Learning happens in ways you do not really expect. When kids go to school there's a lot of technical know-how that they learn. However, there is a reason most homeschool parents have heard, "but how will they learn to socialize". Well, personally I'm more worried about how they will learn to be proper human beings without the hidden curriculum that occurs in school environments where values knowledge and behaviour is learned. Researchers are

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very concerned with hidden curriculum because that's where stereotypes and attitudes are perpetuated. Medical schools have had to change up their curriculums to have more discussions on ethics and professionalism because of technical expertise would just go to the heads of the doctors forgetting the human element. We are at risk of the same thing happening in our schools as a shift to virtual learning of the technical know-how is still there but now the hidden curriculum occurs only in one environment, at home. So, soft skills are needed to be able to communicate properly in society when they go outside of the home again.

Key Points:

Learning happens in ways you do not really expect.

The way in which we teach soft skills such as values is very different than the technical know-how.

This is called Hidden Curriculum in academic circles, specifically medical education and childhood education. How do you think medical curriculums are assured to develop compassionate doctors instead of perpetuating a god complex culture?

Hidden Curriculum influences the development of soft skills.

Everyday Magic as Hidden Curriculum

Truly being a parent, it is difficult not to believe that magic is real because watching my son grow has been amazing. I love how he learns, picks up on things in his environment. Even TV shows and in what ways he mimics me as his momma I've also had to remember to be very patient as he is still learning. I have to remember where he is starting from in life, which is where we all start: from scratch. I realized that each habit I teach him makes for magical experiences later on and when he demonstrates that he's learning. Sometimes I will see a demonstration right away. Other times it'll take months. Magic takes time to work. The hidden curriculum is learned over time; I mean it's built upon, right. So, of course, in these educational environments that's where they would typically get it but now it's at home. That's why a lot of parents, teachers, ECEs, etc everywhere are wondering how a kid's going to come back to school and have all these different attitudes and perceptions learned outside of the classroom. Well, that's because the hidden curriculum of a household does certainly influence attitudes, knowledge, and behavior. There are so many examples of hidden curriculum that it can make, but an easy one in the school system is the way in which teachers are identified: informally by first name or formally by last name.

Key Points:

Watching our kids grow is a magical experience unto itself.

Every day, we have opportunities to implement little habits along that way that work like magic.

Like magic, we do not always see the results right away: magic takes time.

This is the hidden curriculum: the lessons that take place informally as a result of informal and formal lessons.

Hidden Curriculum is also known as implicit curriculum as it often linked to values, behaviours and norms that exist in educational settings.

Hidden Curriculum influences attitudes, knowledge and behaviour.

An example of hidden curriculum is the way in which we were taught to identify teachers by first names versus last names: each way teaches a different set of values connected with respect and communication.

Soft Skills in the Real World

How did you learn respect? Value determinations? I mean think about yourself and how did that impact how you related to your teachers as a child and how you related to adults in general. When you really think about it, how did you learn respect and value? Did someone sit down and talk to you about it or was it something you learned as a by-product of your interactions in your environment? Probably the latter until some employment training soft skills are required for healthy interactions and communication skills, especially dealing with strangers in new situations. The more confident person is in their own soft skills, the greater social standing and fulfillment they will attain in society, too. Personally, I participated in every training session I could attend to learn many of these skills. I even found a way to balance my natural tendency to be respectful, calm and courteous while being able to earn commission and achieve recognition for customer service many times over. I was able to find a way to be able to blend myself with business requirements through the training of soft skills.

Key Points:

How did you learn respect? Value determinations?

Communication based soft skills open doors to being able to approach strangers to proposition them to discuss business or to get to know them personally.

It is important to interact with other human beings in a healthy way to gain social standing and a fulfilling life.

I found that being respectful, kind, courteous while being able to earn really good commission was the ideal in retail. (I had to really believe in the product).

Time Management

Time management is an element of hidden curriculum because it is a habit that we learn from our environment. What we do or not do is what our kids will learn. It is so ingrained in habits that lateness is often identified as a character trait for some people. Time Management is not just about being on time, it is also the ability to prioritize tasks to accomplish them in a timely fashion. Take the example getting to ready leave the house in the morning how tasks are prioritized in order to leave the house at a proper time teaches them how to do it themselves too. And even if you get frustrated with it, you can still teach them to do better and be different without negatively impacting yourself.

Key Points:

Time management falls into soft skills as one not directly reliant on interactions with other people (the other is creative thinking).

Being able to prioritize tasks in a timely order is an essential life skill.

Time management is observed as a behaviour, we all know someone with lateness as a character trait.

The way we get ready as parents for tasks with our kids teaches them Time Management.

Creative Thinking

Creative thinkers make for great problem solvers. The ability to be resourceful and to think outside the norm is important to overcome obstacles and find solutions. We show our kids daily how-to problem solve. How often do you run into an issue and have to figure out how to go about fixing it in a day? Have you considered asking your kids to help figure it out, especially if it involves them too? Sharing ideas is important to learn to be able to be cooperative in a teamwork environment. One way to start with ideas sharing from a young age is through story time. I believe in a mix of reading to the kids, the kids' reading to the adults and taking turns making up stories or even building a story together like over a campfire. Every opportunity for your child to make the link between actions and thinking matters and that's where stories come in. And even a small, small, smallest type thing like one of the things I do: it's very small, but easy way to establish a link between words and actions is to turn on the subtitles or closed captioning on your kids TV shows on Netflix, Disney Plus, YouTube, whatever and even on the TV. That's why I go with the particular service for TV is because they're closed captioning services are superior to the other.

Key Points:

Problem solving is a direct result of creative thinking.

The way in which we as parents help our kids solve problems influences their creative thinking ability.

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Sharing ideas and building together teaches them to explore and expand on their own ideas.

Story time is important in developing creative thinking in reading and telling stories.

Even reading subtitles/captions on their shows helps a child link words to stories, actions and ideas.

Autonomy

Autonomy. The more autonomous a person is, the better chance they have of holding their own opinions and ability to take care of themselves, even in a group. If someone does not learn how to interact properly with themselves, it becomes a much more difficult task to learn how to interact with other people. That's why there's independent play, self-soothing and selfcare as very common subjects found in parenting books and literature.

Independent play starts at a very young age. Then comes self-soothing but you can only really start after newborn stage as you don't want to shock them too much. It has to be taught and brought into their life. And then self-care is the next step which comes in toddlerhood, when they learn to dress themselves and take care of themselves, like brush their teeth. Each stage leads to the next. The environment in which they learn autonomy makes a difference as well. In Montessori philosophy the child has access to stations that are set up with age-appropriate tools so they can engage in an activity by themselves: take it out, set it up, play with it, take down, clean it, and put it away properly. The process is clearly laid out for independent success. Another example of this that I do here at home is that I put milk on the lower shelf in the fridge and have cups available for him that are easily accessible. So, now he's of the age that he can get milk himself whenever he goes, "mom can I have some milk?" I can say "You can go pour it yourself" and he does with reducing levels of guidance.

Key Points:

Learning to interact with oneself is important to being able to interact with other people.

Independent play, soothing and self-care is key to healthy development into adulthood.

In Montessori, they learn autonomy by learning habits that set them up for success.

A Montessori kitchen, for example, is set up for a child to have access to age appropriate tools for them to accomplish a set out task. Even something as simple as pouring their own glass of milk.

Resilience

Resilience! Resilience is having done this slide, already losing all my notes from slides 3 to 9, getting mad at myself for not physically saving often enough and then having to calm

down. I even talked to Reid saying, "mommy's really upset right now because she's mad at herself." He looked at me went, "ok mommy how about you take a big, deep breath" and I did, because he even has learned that one of the things about when you are mad at yourself, or mad at someone else, is you need to calm down. Well. "calm me downs" is a big part for sure, changing up your mindset and then getting back up again, doing it again. Well I've done all these slides all over again and I am so happy for it because it feels like a sense of accomplishment, because I couldn't give it up! If anything, I am resilient! Resilience was a result of a study of successful adults who beat the odds of their peers and often coming from troubled backgrounds and so really resilience is a survival, coping mechanism that is found in people that have come up in through difficult paths of life. Everyone can learn resilience though. A simple and classic childhood experience of resilience is learning to walk but later on when they're actually aware of it it's learning the bike when they fall off the bike scrape their knees you clean them up and you go, "ok now get back on the bike!" but it takes an adult, it takes that other person, to go, "get back up on the bike! You can do it!" That's teaching resilience. Learning resilience becomes an active experience, especially with the right guidance.

Key Points:

Resilience is often found in kids with troubled pasts. I believe this is developed out of survival necessity.

Every kid learns to fall off their bicycle and pick themselves back up again.

That is a lesson in resilience: the ability to pick yourself back up and bicycle time and time again.

Building resilience takes years of effort and some guidance.

Kids who experience constant shutdowns have troubles building resilience because they need the opportunity to share their experiences that build resilience.

Boundaries & Expectations

Boundaries and expectations. I count this in the list because it's much like how a mother dog teaches her pup not to nip. The adults in in the kids surrounding environments influences what a child understands to be appropriate and what is expected of them. It is up to their surroundings to teach a child what is tolerable, too. I mean this usually happens in the school environment where they're defined by expectations and punishments of the school system. Rather than nipping a pup, there are phrases the parent can use to enforce boundaries. One I learned a while back is, "I will not let you do that." Personally, I also had a flip side to this statement, so, that way they have an expectation to fall back on after learning the boundary. I've added: "I would rather you do this". An example would be, "I won't let you scream in the house I would rather you be quieter so I can hear you better". That's something that's taking time to build and demonstrate. Because every day you have everyday magic that adds up over the years. It's these expectations that take time to be fully demonstrated by the child. Keep consistent and patient and it does pay off.

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Key Points:

Faber and many other renowned authors. emphasize the importance of informing boundaries.

The common phrase is, "I won't let you...". I use it in, "I won't let you be mean. I rather you be nice and kind."

Sets realistic expectations for life.

By teaching a child what you are willing to tolerate, they learn tolerance levels, boundaries and expectations.

Everyday Habits as Everyday Magic

A common phrase used with kids it's monkey-see, monkey-do. This still applies and I expand that childhood teaches them what to do and what not to do too. Sometimes observation is enough to learn what not to do, but often has to be lived to really get it or be talked out. So, we teach through habits here's the thing though, you do not necessarily have to change your own habits. You can simply teach new ones. Every habit child learns influences our self-culture so they may develop into healthy, social human beings. For example, learning to brush their teeth and wipe the bums creates a foundation for our culture of cleanliness that they'll use throughout their lives. Really outside the classroom, it is hidden curriculum teaching everyday habits are important lifelong lessons that you can take on as a parent. Basically exercise, cooking, and so much more.

Key Points:

Kids repeat your habits until they learn to build their own habits.

Habits are essential to building self-culture.

Habits are everyday ways you go about doing things such as walking every day, cooking lunch at noon every day, and so on.

Brushing teeth before bed and wiping bums as habits create the foundation for a cleanliness culture.

Present Lessons for Future Filing

Make it fun though and engage in children's curiosity to watch the magic happen. Every lesson today is a strategy for tomorrow. Some lessons take a few tries to get so please be patient yet consistent with your children. Keep in mind that there are steps to make to build a foundation that will be built upon and upgraded throughout their entire lives. As they learn new habits, they learn how to become lifelong learners. I encourage to relate

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new habits with old ones. Think of your own learned habits from your own childhood that have stayed with you throughout your entire adult life that you'd like to teach your kids.

Key Points:

Every lesson today is for their future benefit.

Every lesson today prepares them for upgrading their lessons in the future.

The formative years create foundations for lifelong learning.

Making reference to past lessons in present experiences frames the child's mind to do the same on their own.

I encourage you to remember a few key lessons from your own childhood that have stayed with you for life.

Everyday Magic Conversations

Figuring out what is your everyday magic doesn't magically happen overnight; it takes time to reflect on what everyday habits you want to teach your kids in order to positively influence a hidden curriculum of them being at home, when they're not in school. Even when they do go back to school you can keep up with your hidden curriculum the match alongside what they are learning in the school system. Next time you see your kids' teacher even surprise them and talk about hidden curriculum in their classroom: the values and habits they encourage and teach. Talk with your friends, family, experts, whoever you feel comfortable too talking about you and your kids' habits in an open way. I've also created the Facebook group for Mama Bears there's a link below. I still haven't working out an idea for dads or parents in general. I also strongly encourage you to read up on the subject some more via blogs and books. It would be my pleasure to do a Bibliotherapy session with you to get literature that suits your needs and learning style and your family the most. Parenthood is eclectic so you get to take ideas from your past & present, read up on others take on parenting and then there's the influence from your family and friends too. So, I hope this presentation leaves you with feeling some of your own magic weaving around you and all of those elements. It's eclectic: you get to take all of those elements and make it your own and I hope that knowing that you have that magic and you have that ability then it allows you to be excited to share these with your kids.

Key Points:

Talk with your partner, friends, family, with whomever you feel comfortable chatting.

Join a Facebook page like the Mama Bear Club I created:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/536533650349604/>

Read up on the subject! There are many books and blogs available to read up on different processes, tips and tricks. Assemble your own set of ideals.

Parenthood is eclectic, embrace the magic!

Conclusion

In conclusion everyday magic is created by teaching everyday habits. These everyday nuanced habits of the way are habits that influence the way the kid speaks, acts and listen. These are curriculum worthy elements unto themselves, but they're hidden. Thing is, now you know it exists, so it is no longer hidden for you. So, you won't be able to help but see it. It's hidden curriculum that becomes a foundation for your child's self-culture as they grow up. All of these habits inform habits for the rest of their lives and turn into soft skills as they become employable. These skills include time management, creative thinking, autonomy, resilience, and boundaries and expectations. I encourage you to reflect on how you've learned skills yourself and how you can include your kids in learning the habits that are important to you for them to learn.

Key Points:

Hidden Curriculum is the everyday habits you demonstrate in your child's environment that become foundational self-culture

These habits, albeit small, help your child build their soft skills for the real world

Children informally learn Time Management, Creative Thinking, Autonomy, Resilience, and Boundaries & Expectations from their surrounding environments.

Reflect and explore as a parent on your own habits that have encouraged your soft skills.

Thank you

I thank you very, very much for joining me and this was a tough project for me I was close to my heart and even with the technological goof-ups. I am very happy to be presenting this to the world as one of MySillyWinks projects, as The unLibrarian. Thank you very much for your interest in forming your child's hidden curriculum at home. I encourage you to contact me with questions or to schedule a zoom session for Bibliotherapy or any other questions.

I send my finest regards to you as Amanda The unLibrarian. Have a wonderful day!

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