

Believing in our Children's Success

Fones is nervous about canoeing alone for the first time. Knack, Fixit and Keenly, along with other family members, provide encouragement, support and ways to take action, rooting for Fones along the way. As a result, Fones approaches the experience with a good attitude and feels able to take on challenges and do well in school and life.

Narrated Message // *Life is full of challenges and sometimes those challenges can be intimidating if we face them alone. What we can remember is that we have our families and our community to help us along the way. Our culture helps us to know ourselves—our family and our community help us grow. When each individual feels strong and knows their role, the community grows strong as a whole. We know that when we recognize and believe in our children's abilities and strengths, we provide the building blocks of a lifetime's worth of self-confidence and self-esteem, the foundation of academic and social success.*

IDEAS

- Trying to find time to help children with homework and projects can be challenging, along with juggling everything we need to do and worry about. Thinking about building this help into everyday life can make it all easier.
- It may be hard to help our children with their school work. Maybe we don't feel sure of ourselves in reading, writing, math or other subjects. Thinking about different skills and talents our family members have to help our children at school can be a way through. Checking in with our children's teachers and getting tips for helping with homework is something else we can try.
- Our help and encouragement can make children feel good about themselves and their efforts to do well at school. Telling them that you see that they are trying and working hard can go a long way.
- Supporting our children by encouraging them to speak openly about their fears and worries, and their hopes and dreams for the future.
- Continuing to believe that our children can learn and do well, even when they are having a hard time.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. What ideas do you have for helping your children when they are having difficulty with their school work?
3. Would you like to have more time to talk to your children's teachers or other school staff to work on this?
4. Do you feel you know enough about your children's learning strengths and weaknesses and interests in order to help with school work? What would help you learn more?
5. What could the school do to help you with this?
6. What additional suggestions or personal stories do you have to share?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. What factors reduce parents' ability to help and support their children with their school work?
2. How can your school enhance parents' support for their children?
3. What other strategies might help parents offer support to enhance their children's success at school?
4. Are there families at your school that require additional encouragement or ways to take action to enhance their capacity to support their children? Are there any additional responses that might further support and meet the specific needs of Aboriginal children and family members?
5. Who are the key people at your school or board who might help with this issue?