

WELLBEING CORNER

By Gene Reardon

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

Language, communication and children's wellbeing



Hi Everyone,

Building on our theme last week - looking after children's wellbeing, I wanted to share some news on a new College initiative for 2021: *Auslan for VCD Families*.

When children use Auslan as their natural language, parent (and siblings) involvement and enthusiasm for learning Auslan is critically important. As parents we want to have healthy communication with our children and enjoy meaningful conversations. We know that having a shared language hugely supports our children's growth and development and helps us resolve problems together.

Some VCD families have said they are keen to learn Auslan. So, we are exploring an Auslan for Families program. Our approach will - build parent's confidence, enrich your language deeply, and be fun 😊! It will also be delivered flexibly - at your own pace, through tutors or through ZOOM sessions- your choice.

It's fantastic that some of our VCD parents have volunteered to help in the design of this. We will also be working with Deaf experts, and students to ensure that VCD's Auslan for Families is highly interactive and high quality. We are hoping for a 2021 launch but we will pilot material sooner if we can.

If you have any questions, ideas or wonderings, please contact either Marnie Kerridge or myself.

In the meantime, please hop onto sign bank - a really easy way to find Auslan vocabulary. It's free! I have personally found it a hugely rich resource. You can use it like a dictionary. Just click on the link and enter the word that you are keen to learn the sign for.

<http://www.auslan.org.au/dictionary/words/anywhere-1.html>

I hope you and your family keep well and healthy over the coming week.

Kind Regards,
Gene