

EDUCATION CORNER

Questions lead to comprehension

Understanding the world around us is the goal we want all our children to achieve. We want them to understand and explain what they see, hear and read. It should be really simple. You see it, you talk about it and you can write about it when you're older. For some reason, it just doesn't work that way for everyone. Problem-solving is a natural ability humans can accomplish. Yet, many people need a little nurturing to become a master at the skill of understanding (comprehending) and problem-solving (vocal, written or demonstration).



Dr. Scott Smith

than what you think is best. Many times they will, but this is where learning takes place. So if they have a choice of pop or ice cream and they choose pop, but others have ice cream, they may change their mind after everyone gets their treat. You just have to remind them that it was their choice for the pop, and next time they might be able to choose ice cream. I can almost guarantee there may be a tantrum, but remember, don't solve it for them. Don't offer to trade. Now, if they ask you to trade, they are starting to use their own problem-solving, and it becomes your choice whether to trade or not. This method works no matter the child's age.

Asking questions like, "Do you think that's the best choice?" "Which do you think would go faster?" or "What would you do with all that money?" forces them to trigger the thinking process and go into problem-solving. The struggle comes in guiding them with questions in order to draw their conclusions. The world all of a sudden moves into slow motion, and the child is faced with questions. The number one thing the child is fearing is making the incorrect decision. Thus, we move into the child's world of decision-making using questions helping them make their decision or draw their own conclusions. When given more and more opportunities to allow them to nurture the skill of problem-solving, they will get quicker.

If you have a child you notice is struggling with problem-solving, choose a time to work with them. Trying to have a teaching moment when the whole family is waiting might be difficult for everyone. Seek out a time you are able to spend time with them and guide them in developing their problem-solving skills. You might consider starting with one situation each day, allowing them to make their own decision.

Start asking questions, and you'll see your child's ability to problem-solve, discuss and even write about situations make remarkable growth.

Dr. Scott Smith is a Umatilla County educator with 40-plus years of experience. He taught at McNary Heights Elementary School and then for Eastern Oregon University in their teacher education program at Blue Mountain Community College. He serves on the Decoding Dyslexia — OR board as their parent-teacher liaison.

One method for developing problem-solving skills in children is through using questioning. Questioning activates the part of the brain used for problem-solving. It doesn't matter what age, whether the child is 2 or 22, using questioning strategies aids in fostering everyone's ability to problem-solve when having to face a situation they need to resolve on their own. Example: Which do you eat faster with, a fork or spoon? This type of questioning asks the brain to use existing information to respond to a new problem.

Sounds simple, but it's harder than you think! Living in a fast-moving world, it sometimes feels like we have to get things done quickly. Therefore, we often tell or give the child resolutions to issues so we are able to move on. We do the problem-solving for the child, so they quickly learn that, in order to get the information they need, they simply ask. Frustration hits when a child has not had practice, is asked a question and expected to respond orally or written and is at a loss for what to do. Hurried adults become frustrated and often give a response something like, "Just figure it out!"

Have you provided the opportunities for your child to know how to figure things out, or have you assumed they should know? The child is showing they have not developed their problem-solving ability, and without prior practice, everyone becomes frustrated. The teaching moment is now. Use questions to help them draw their own conclusions, right or wrong, and learn from the experience.

Starting with giving the child a simple choice is best. Remember it is OK if they choose something different

New principal hired at Humbolt Elementary

Attlesperger coming to town from Terrebonne

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

A new principal is coming to town in August.

Janine Attlesperger is bringing years of experience to Grant County with her first day as principal set for Aug. 2.

She is moving from Terrebonne, where she is currently the Title I reading specialist at the Terrebonne Community School.

Attlesperger got her teaching degree from Western Oregon University and taught middle school and then fifth grade near the university. She also got her master's degree there and completed a leading specialist internship where she redesigned the reading program in a school that did not have one.

"We were given an opportunity to move to a small town in central Pennsylvania, and I got a job with an intermediate unit out there, similar to our (education service districts)," Attlesperger said.

She was able to go into non-public schools as well, bringing services to many Amish and Mennonite schools. She also got her administrative certificate in Pennsylvania.

When her two older kids graduated, she made the move back to Oregon and has worked as the Title I reading special-



Janine Attlesperger

ist at the Terrebonne Community School for the past seven years.

Three years ago she started working on her doctorate degree and expects to graduate by December.

"It's something I'm passionate for, and I am passionate about working with kids and improving the education system for all learners," Attlesperger said. "The John Day and Canyon City area has always been a place my family has loved so we couldn't be happier."

Attlesperger said they have never lived in Grant County, but they enjoyed visits to the area and the recreational opportunities.

Fishing in the John Day River, camping in the Strawberry Mountains and

her husband bowhunting are some of the recreational activities they enjoy on their visits.

"We're just small town people, so when I started looking at administrative positions, I was looking in small towns," Attlesperger said. "I grew up in Grants Pass back when it was a small town, and my husband grew up in Keizer when it used to not be a part of Salem."

She hopes this will be their last move and where they will hang their hats for the rest of their lives.

Attlesperger said she looks forward to meeting the families and staff.

"We have spent time there in Grant County, but to become a part of that community is special," Attlesperger said.

She is also excited to see Humbolt's greatest strengths, while working on what needs improvement.

The relationships built with families and the community are her favorite parts of working in the education system. Especially with the challenges presented by COVID-19, she said the support systems really came into play in meeting the need of students and parents.

"This has been a hard year, and we've risen above it," Attlesperger said.

"I think, in a lot of ways, we can't wait for things to get back to normal, but I also think that some good has come out of this. As educators, we have learned how to meet the needs of individual students and families."

Dayville's Sullivan named Regional Teacher of the Year

Sullivan appreciative of award and support from community

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Carrie Sullivan from Dayville School District was named the Grant County Education School District Regional Teacher of the Year.

The announcement May 18 was based on nominations by students, colleagues, administrators, friends or family members. The winner was selected by a diverse panel of regional representatives.

"Now a 10-year veteran, (Sullivan) has polished her skills and kept fresh her creativity and ingenuity; she has truly arrived as a master teacher," Dayville Superintendent Kathryn Hedrick said in a press release.

Sullivan won a \$500 cash prize for



Contributed photo

Regional Teacher of the Year Carrie Sullivan poses for a picture with students at Dayville.

the award and is in the running for Oregon's 2022 Teacher of the Year, where a teacher will be awarded \$5,000 with a match of \$5,000 going to the school of the educator.

"The critical role of teachers has become especially evident as schools have responded to the global COVID-

19 pandemic," the announcement states. "Teachers have stepped up in countless, innovative ways to ensure students are safe, healthy and engaged to reach their full potential, making this a fitting opportunity to recognize the excellence of Regional Teachers of Year throughout the state."

2021 EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

Official Rules:
Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.
Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.
Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.
Only photographers from Oregon may participate.
The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at: bluemountaineagle.com/photocontest

HESSTON

Robbins Farm Equipment

3850 10th St. Baker City
541-523-6377

62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande
541-963-6577

1160 S Egan Burns
541-573-6377

86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley
541-576-2160

HOMER L. HARRISON

A celebration of Homer's life will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021, 1: 30 p.m. at the Holliday State Park. Please bring your own chair. If inclement weather the celebration will be moved to the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall. Online condolences may be shared at: www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

PIONEER FEED & FARM SUPPLY 60561 Hwy 26, JOHN DAY
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