No Parroting Allowed!

Learning Emergence by Asking Questions

"Learning to Enjoy Choices"

Questions for the Week of April 2, 2007

When asked, "how do you best learn?" most people usually respond with either a technique, like "in a classroom," or by naming their favorite sense, like "I learn best visually." Unfortunately, this implies that most people define "learning" as the ability to parrot the correct answer.

What is wrong with this? "Parroting the correct answer" creates parrots, not students; dullards, not Einsteins. So how can we create more Einsteins? By asking questions **which are intended to provoke the student's own questions**. More important, this turns out to be the best way in which to reawaken in students their lost love of learning.

This week, our topic is **"Learning to Love Having Choices."** Would you like to awaken a love of learning in you about this topic? You can, simply by reading the teacher's questions and then, by asking yourself, "what questions did these words just provoke in me?"

"Learning to Enjoy Choices"

The Teacher's Questions (asked by Netta)

Hi John. I've been learning to love having more freedom with my thoughts, actions, conversations, etc. Most recently, I've been working with a parent at work, trying to help her develop a picture that includes her son when she's making decisions about anything in his life. She has had great difficulty including her son in her advocacy for him. All the decisions about his life are rarely presented or even discussed with him (He is diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome).

I've had my own lessons learned, from watching my one year old son command his right to choose however he feels when necessary. My questions are:

- How does a person's perceived role (e.g., parent, child) affect his or her ability to picture?
- Is making a choice affected by "time?"
- If so, what if the person has a wound around "time." How are their choices affected?

- In this situation, how many pictures of "choice" are occurring?

- For myself, I'm enjoying discovering just how specific I get when making a decision. I notice my surroundings, literal time (as if I must decide with a certain period), the person's reaction (the parent, my son), even sounds and smells if I'm comfortable. How does having details surrounding 'choice' affect the 'love' of making a decision?
- Can I love choices more via this momentum of experience?

Sample Student Response Questions (asked by John)

- How can we truly see another's point of view when we are merely connecting through our pictures?
- I found through Steve's suggestion an absolute love of catering to my needs. What makes it so difficult to recognize and cater to my needs consistently?
- Although disconnecting is human nature isn't the time spent disconnected lost time?

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