



## STRETCHING LEARNING

Growing learners, developing dispositions





**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

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# Holdfast Partnership

Creating a vibrant, collaborative and innovative learning community that provides opportunity and challenge for young people.

Brighton Secondary School

Brighton Primary School and  
Centre for Deaf

Glenelg Primary School

Paringa Park Primary School

St Leonards Primary School

Warradale Primary School

Baden Pattinson Kindergarten

Ballara Park Kindergarten

Dover Kindergarten and  
Occasional Care

Dunbar Terrace Kindergarten

Oaklands Estate Kindergarten

Seacliff Community Kindergarten

Somerton Park Kindergarten

Warradale Kindergarten







*Developing strong  
dispositions gives  
children a sound  
foundation for  
lifelong learning.*

# About this book

This book is for families and teachers in the Holdfast Partnership.

Dispositions are the attitudes we have to our interactions in the world. They are the usual ways we respond to people and situations. We learn these dispositions as we grow, especially from our families and schooling environments. Adults can support student learners by listening and allowing time to think.

The dispositions in this book are ones that will help children and young people to be successful learners. We can all help them to be:

- Curious
- Courageous
- Confident
- Communicators

Curious, courageous, confident communicators are more likely to be resilient and resourceful citizens with a strong sense of purpose.






# BEING CURIOUS

Being curious is how we learn about ourselves and the world.

Rich environments create wonder and fascination.

Curiosity helps learners ask powerful questions.





**‘** *We are born  
curious and  
stay curious when  
we have many chances  
to explore and find  
things out.* **’**



*Children who  
are confident approach  
life with a sense of  
enjoyment, challenge  
and fun.*



# BEING CONFIDENT

Being confident helps us to try new things,  
take risks and explore.

Our confidence grows when we feel safe and loved  
with a sense of belonging.

Confidence gives us the positive attitude to try  
something new and learn from mistakes.



# BEING COURAGEOUS

Courage is the commitment to begin without any guarantee of success.

Successful learners do not shrink from challenge, difficulty or failure.

Lifelong learners take responsibility for their own feelings and actions.






**‘** *Courage  
is the virtue  
that makes all  
other virtues  
possible.* **’**

Winston Churchill



A photograph of two students in a library. A young man with short blonde hair and blue eyes is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with green and yellow stripes on the collar and sleeves. He is holding a book titled "TRANSCENDENCE" by "The Story Springs". A young woman with long dark hair is smiling and looking at the book. She is also wearing a dark blue polo shirt with green and yellow stripes. The background shows bookshelves filled with books.

*“ We are social  
beings who are  
intrinsically motivated  
to exchange ideas,  
thoughts, questions  
and feelings. ”*

# BEING A COMMUNICATOR

There are multiple ways of communicating that go beyond talking and listening.

Communication is productive, purposeful and promotes intentional learning.

Critical and creative thinkers communicate new ideas to make connections and to solve problems.





Innovation  
Stickability Imagination  
Adaptability Practice  
Flexibility  
Energy  
Resilient  
Improvement Optimism  
Creative Commitment





Persistence  
Mindful Stretch  
Hope Growth Mindset  
Citizens Motivation  
Strength Possibility  
Thrive  
Collaboration Enthusiasm



**‘** *We are developing young people who have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical well-being.* **’**

*Melbourne Declaration of Educational  
Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA 2008)*