



# STARLINK

Issue 57

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## Mensplace

<http://www.mensplace.net.au/>

This Western Australian website provides a range of information and resources. Also available is a subscription to *Dadwise* – an e-newsletter for fathers.

*Mensplace is a dedicated resource service to support and encourage the development of initiatives that assist men in their role as fathers and other family roles. We hope you will find information and resources to help you in your work with men. Our aim is to work together to help enrich the communities that we live in.*

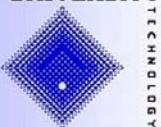
## Hey Dad WA: Fatherhood Research Report

<http://www.ngala.com.au/heydadwa.html>

The Fatherhood Research Report, published by NGALA in Western Australia, makes for interesting reading. Download it from the above website.

Starlink is proudly sponsored by

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## Starlink's 10th Birthday!

This issue marks 10 years since the first issue of Starlink back in November 1995!

Issue Number was simply called *Star Newsletter* and was first published as a way to connect the 51 Students at Risk projects and workers across Victoria, including the Extra Edge program. Readers of the first issue were asked to suggest and vote on a name for the newsletter. Some of the suggestions were: *The Shuttle*; *The Comet*; *Life on Mars*; *Star Track*; *Starlink*; *Starwatch*; *Risky Business*; *On the Edge* and *Around the Edges*. People faxed or phoned in their votes, the name *Starlink* was chosen in truly democratic style – and *Starlink* it has remained ever since.

Each issue sees new subscribers as well as those who have moved on, but the list has grown to 600 recipients – with many more people reading Starlink as well, as I know

many of you forward each issue to others in your network. I'm delighted to have the feedback from many of you that you still find it useful continue to share it with others.

The main purpose of Starlink has always been to provide useful ideas, resources and information for those working across the education, community and health sectors. It is also intended to be handy for busy people – no long articles but short pointers to a range of resources – so you can quickly take what is useful and discard the rest.

At this special milestone, Starlink's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, I'd like to thank all readers for your continued support. I know some of you have been Starlink subscribers for the whole 10 years and I'm delighted to know you are still finding it a helpful publication!

Thank You!



Laughter is wine for the soul – laugh soft, or loud and deep, tinged through with seriousness. Comedy and tragedy step through life together, arm in arm... Once we can laugh, we can live. (Sean O'Casey, Irish playwright, 1880-1964)

## Community Management and Training Centre

[http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/management\\_main.jsp](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/management_main.jsp)

This section of the Australian *Our Community* website contains a wealth of resources on developing and managing community groups.

*The Community Management Centre - the national knowledge gateway - is for community groups seeking information and resources on every aspect of how to manage a community group.*

*It is the A-Z resource to find out everything from how to start and manage a community*

*group, how to market your community group, how to run your board including recruiting and keeping new Board Members and how to comply with all the demands and changes in taxation and legal requirements.*

Topics headings are:

- Developing an Effective Board
- Developing and Managing a Community Group
- Managing Legal Tax and Compliance

- Managing Your Volunteers
- Marketing Your Group
- Raising Funds
- Starting a Community Group
- Using Technology

Some resources under these headings are free, others are able to be purchased for a nominal sum.

Well worth visiting and adding to your bookmarks!

## The Creative Learning Exchange

<http://www.clexchange.org/>

This website contains a range of information and resources about approaching education from a systems perspective:

**Philosophy:** *The Creative Learning Exchange encourages a view of education for primary and secondary schools based on discovery as the essence of the learning process and advocates systems education implemented through learner-centered learning.*

**Mission:** *To facilitate communication among teachers and schools and to create a network of schools using systems education.*

**Process:** *First we solicit teaching materials and ideas from teachers and participating school systems. We then make these materi-*

*als available to educators. Some of the currently available materials include processes for introducing systems education and learner-centered learning, models and lesson plans (<http://www.clexchange.org/lom/>) from both beginners and more experienced teachers, and a quarterly newsletter (<http://www.clexchange.org/newsletters/>) with feature articles and updates from participating school systems.*

Are you new to system dynamics and/or learner centred learning? You can download an introductory packet from the homepage of this website to help you learn more.



If you train your mind to search for the positive things about other people, you will be surprised at how many good things you can observe in them and comment upon.  
(Alan Loy McGinnis)

## Teaching and Learning Supports

<http://www.annenberginstitute.org/resources/tl.html>

A wide range of articles and resources are available here from the Annenberg Institute For School Reform in the US. Some are free to download, others require payment. For example:

### **Beyond Instructional Leadership: The Changing Shape of Leadership**

*Article about how the Annenberg Institute for School Reform's work with principals, superintendents, and other educators yields insights into the collaborative leading and learning going on in today's schools.*

### **Coaches in the High School Classroom: Studies in Implementing High School Reform**

*(This) 44-page publication, Coaches in the High School Classroom, features close-ups of six coaches in Boston and Houston. Intended to provide fuel for discussion, the portraits are interspersed with guiding questions and followed by several tools that can be used for*

*further discussion, assessment, and analysis of coaching programs.*

### **Coaching: A Way to Improve Teaching and Learning**

*Written by Barbara Neufeld and Dana Roper of Education Matters, Inc., the paper describes what coaching is, what coaches do, the kinds of supports that coaches need, and the potential benefits to both educators and students.*

### **Finding The Words: Kids and Teachers Rise to the Challenge of Literacy**

*Article describing how five years of progress across Annenberg Challenge sites resulted in a focused and pragmatic philosophy that sidesteps the "reading wars" and instead concentrates on the students themselves. Annenberg educators have recognized that literacy instruction has come a long way since the days of Dick and Jane.*

*Informed by a solid body of research on how humans learn to make meaning out of the written word, schools are coming to terms with the need for a richer and more coherent approach from kindergarten through high school.*

*Teaching literacy is everyone's responsibility now, Annenberg educators assert – and so they put money and time into support for teachers trying to alter the ways they work with children and each other.*

*Pressing for improvement from both outside and within the system, those who work with the largely poor and minority students the Challenge serves, are hoping to match practical concepts with action and results.*



## Tools for School Improvement Planning

<http://www.annenberginstitute.org/tools/index.html>

Also from the Annenberg Institute for School Reform in the US, this site gathers together a great range of tools – eg surveys, questionnaires and processes – to assist schools in their reform efforts.

Well worth a browse!

You can learn new things at any time in your life if you're willing to be a beginner. If you actually learn to think like being a beginner, the whole world opens up to you.  
(Barbara Sher, Author)

## Valued Resource?



*Sue James and I have delivered several workshops and conferences this year for teachers, principals and school support officers.*

One of the interesting themes we noticed was the need for teachers, principals and school support officers to be valued. To be appreciated for their time, professionalism, energy and efforts in helping students achieve their maximum potential.

This need to feel valued appears even more important than the need to deal with stress, lack of resources or time constraints that many of the participants experienced.

I believe that when teachers, principals or

school support officers are valued for their efforts, their motivation will increase which will increase their performance level and result in our children receiving the best education available.  
So how does one achieve this?

Well, better pay and conditions might seem obvious answers. They are ongoing concerns. But with funding issues these days (some things never change) that can be a slow and long road.

So what can be done now?

Well, the Confucian proverb 'a thousand mile journey begins with a single step' is a good start.

Consider each day as a single step and make it your business to find a colleague, superior, other staff, administrator etc. and

find one thing he or she has done well and say the magic words 'Thank you, I appreciate your effort.'

That's only six words!

Six words that can make a big difference to someone's day.

Six words that can make people feel good about themselves, and probably help students they come in contact with feel better about themselves too.

So make a start today.

Make someone feel valued and you will become a valued resource.

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## Community Psychology Net

<http://www.cmmtypsych.net/>

*This site is meant to be a resource for educators, professionals, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and others who are interested in learning more about the fascinating field of community psychology.*

*The Community Psychology Network site is full of information including links and information regarding discussion lists, profes-*

*sional membership societies, graduate schools, community psychology course materials, funding sources, position announcements, community psychology books and suggested reading material, and various other miscellaneous resources relevant to the field.*

*If you can't find what you are looking for, just search for it with our search engine!*

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist . . . [Teaching may] even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.  
 (John Steinbeck)

## Social Psychology Network

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>

This claims to be the largest social psychology database on the internet, with over 12,000 links related to psychology! Definitely a site to be saved in your bookmarks and used as a reference, rather than one for a quick browse!

*All told, the network's pages are now viewed an average of more than 70,000 times per day by people from 100 countries around the world -- a total of over 60 million page views since the SPN was create.*

Their huge list of resources are arranged under subtopics related to prejudice and discrimination, gender, culture, social influence, interpersonal relations, group behaviour, aggression, and more.



See the list at:

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/social.htm>

There is also a very long list of web-based reference tools at:

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/tools.htm>

*With the reference tools on this page, you can search social science databases, translate foreign language terms, or even convert physical measurement units.*

*Many of these tools are little-known gems that are well worth exploring.*

## Service Learning

<http://learningindeed.org/map3.html>

This web page has a clickable image map to a wide range of internet resources on service-learning.

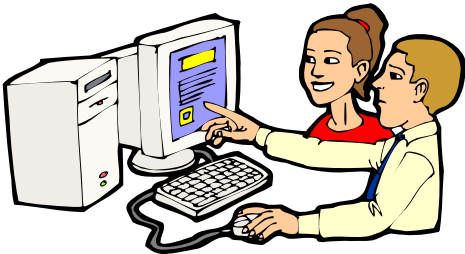
Service learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Service learning takes place in K-12 schools, in higher education classrooms, and in community-based organizations.

A useful resource for teachers and students!

To lead the people, walk behind them  
(Lao-tzu)

## C.A.R.T.—Compendium of Assessment and Research Tools

<http://cart.rmcdenver.com/>

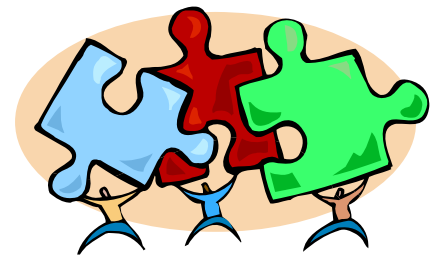


The Compendium of Assessment and Research Tools (CART) is a database that provides information on instruments that measure attributes associated with youth development programs. CART includes descriptions

of research instruments, tools, rubrics, and guides and is intended to assist those who have an interest in studying the effectiveness of service-learning, safe and drug-free schools and communities, and other school-based youth development activities.

When you search the CART database, you can locate research tools that address an area of focus you are interested in studying. You will find a brief description of the instruments, the target population for the instrument, contact information for acquiring the instrument, other parameters that should guide its use.

CART is not intended to be exhaustive of all instruments appropriate for studying youth development outcomes, nor is it intended to provide a judgment about which tool would be best for a specific study. Support for assembling this compendium of research instruments was supported by The Star Center and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Learning In Deed Initiative.



## Community Empowerment

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/>

This site is an excellent resource for anyone working in the field in communities – it covers methods to strengthen communities, raising capacity in low income neighborhoods.

A huge range of training materials, tools and explanations that can be used by field workers in their own community work or to train others in the community. It includes the complete text of the *Handbook for Community Organizers* at <http://www.scn.org/cmp/hbmob.htm>

The training material you will find here, which you may download to your computer for free, is mainly for community workers in the field. You will also find policy, strategies, methodology, curriculum, management and planning material useful to teams initi-

ating or upgrading any community empowerment or development programme.

The strategies and methodology described here go beyond traditional community development techniques, with their rural bias and emphasis on mobilizing self help groups; it includes modified action-oriented management training aimed at community members and their leaders, and adaptations of community organizing methods that are appropriate to the currently rapid urbanization of the world.

Other topics include poverty reduction, gender strategy, facilitation, income generation, capacity development, monitoring, brainstorm, community participation, social animation, learning an oral language, and empowerment.

## Creating Learning Communities

<http://www.creatinglearningcommunities.org/>

This Coalition for Self Learning website is an online resource centre for their publication *Creating Learning Communities*. It is certainly well worth a visit! There are a number of resources and tools available, and *Creating Learning Communities* is available for download in its entirety in various formats.



## The Jigsaw Classroom

<http://www.jigsaw.org/>

This is the official website of the jigsaw classroom, a cooperative learning technique that reduces racial conflict among school children, promotes better learning, improves student motivation, and increases enjoyment of the learning experience. The jigsaw technique was first developed in the early 1970s by Elliot Aronson and his students at the University of Texas and the University of California. Since then, hundreds of schools have used the jigsaw classroom with great success.

Topics covered are:

- Overview of the Technique
- History of the Jigsaw Classroom
- Jigsaw in 10 Easy Steps
- Tips on Implementation
- Books and Articles Related to the Jigsaw Technique
- Chapter 1 of Aronson's Book "Nobody Left to Hate: Teaching Compassion After Columbine"
- Links on Cooperative Learning and School Violence
- About Elliot Aronson and This Web Site

Whoever cares to learn will  
always find a teacher.  
(German proverb)