

Tips for Parents by Susie Kohl

School Learning Objectives as New Year's Resolutions

YEARS AGO I WROTE AN ARTICLE for *Parents Magazine* about the process of making New Year's resolutions with my children, and how impressed I was that, after a year, they could recount their very simple resolutions and make their own judgments on how they had done.

If you're interested in exploring the process of making commitments for the new year with your family, you might think about choosing one of our schoolwide learning objectives, which are posted in all our classrooms, preschool through elementary. Children are familiar with these ideas, as they are talked about consistently as underlying school values. Teachers try to live them too, and we even refer to them in our teacher evaluations.

Our school learning objectives are:

- œ Practice respect, kindness, tolerance, and cooperation.*
- œ Be open to new learning.*
- œ Try your best.*
- œ Express and value yourself through the arts.*

Part of the fun of discussing these as New Year's resolutions is thinking of ways you could approach them as a family. Maybe you could decide to just discuss the meaning of each one over time, or individual family members could pick one to work on. Of course, young children can't be expected to remember and adhere to high-level concepts, but talking about them, then going back to them in the future, has a positive, long-range effect.

Whatever you decide, the Meher Schools staff wishes you a fulfilling, joyful new year.

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