EFFECTIVE PARENTING

There is no one secret to raising great kids. There are many. It takes the consistent application parenting basics practised every day to raise well-behaved, confident, sociable young achievers.

Great parents have a solid understanding of the basics of child-rearing and apply them every day in their interactions with their children.

The basics of parenting include:

- **Talking with children.** This is the essence of effective parenting. If you do nothing else talk with them about a whole range of ‘stuff’. The links to school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with their kids from a young age is indisputable.

- **Authoritative parenting style.** Authoritative parents search for a balance between warmth and firmness in their child-rearing. Their disciplinary methods are supportive rather than punitive and they aim for self-regulation. Authoritative parents influence rather than control their children and have a range of strategies to build relationships and give children a voice in their family enterprise.

- **Promoting citizenship and respect for others.** The ability of parents to teach kids the concept of altruism and that there is more to life than meeting their own needs is strongly linked to children’s social competencies.

- **Persistence and responsibility.** These two values are huge drivers for children’s well-being and achievement. For instance, over 35 per cent of children’s success in school is directly attributed to their ability to persist as a learner, and less than 10 per cent is attributed to IQ.

These are just some of the basics of parenting that when understood and applied lead to the best outcomes for kids.