

Vicky's Little BIG Stories of Learning

A dive to trust

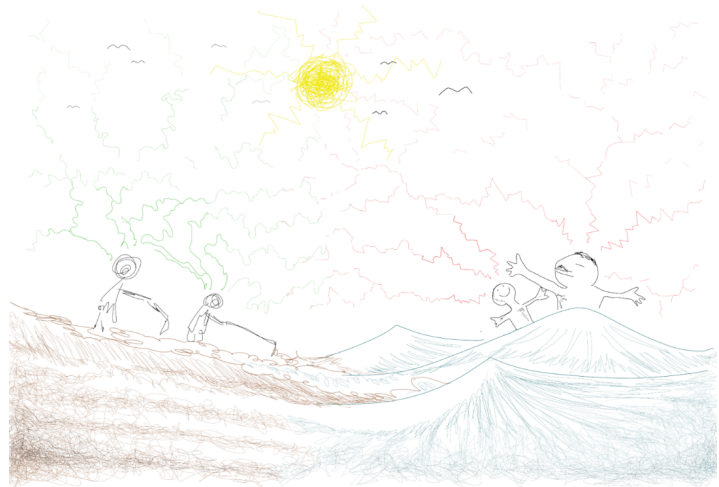
My grandfather taught me how to swim. I was around three years old and I remember holding him from his bathing suit and swimming along with him. Even though he is not here anymore, I often still think of him and those very first attempts, when I am swimming now.

Going back to this memory, it reminds me of the trust you need to build to somebody else, when you are about to obtain a new skill. No matter if you are a child or an adult.

Prepare the ground for the seeds of a better world

“At school's assembly the topic is our garden! We decide what kind of preparation is needed, which vegetables we are going to plant and we set a schedule with works and responsibilities. The whole procedure takes about two weeks. We water the land for some days, put the compost, dig the lines, measure and plant the vegetables, water the new plants. Of course, we also need to do some relevant reading.

One day while we dig under the hot sun, Nicolas (5 years old) holding a big, heavy tool for digging, stops and looks around. A group of five or six children were also working in the garden. Then he says: “Actually, producing food is not easy at all. I couldn't imagine that planting carrots would be that difficult. I just go and buy carrots at the supermarket.” He added: “I really admire those who grow food for the people”.



How that affected me as a teacher: That was an inspiring moment! It reminded me not to take things for granted. In everyday life, things move too fast most of the time, and we just don't think how important some basic, simple everyday things are. Sometimes it's these simple things that we need to put on light as teachers. We need to take care of the ground for these things to grow in a genuine, experiential and spontaneous way.

How hopeful is being present to such a "big realization" from a child and how happy I am that he decided to speak out loud!

