

About More is Caught Than Taught

It takes a whole village to raise a child

More is Caught Than Taught (MCTT) is a programme built around the wisdom of the African proverb: *It takes a whole village to raise a child*. MCTT is based on the concept that, whilst taught lessons are important, the most powerful way children learn is through “caught” messages – that is through emulating the adults around them. Adults act as the template for children from which they learn how to negotiate the wider world.

The MCTT programme is based on the belief that children should grow to be **leaders** believing that they can make a difference in the world and feeling that they have the resources (physical, emotional, intellectual, psychological and spiritual) to create a better world.

During MCTT, parents and practitioners develop an acute awareness of the things that are shaping children’s lives. The key modules in this 12 week programme are:

Vision

Participants develop a collective vision for the kind of world they want children to inherit, and for the skills, qualities, and characteristics will need to be

leaders in shaping this world. The visioning module is the reference point for the rest of the programme.

Environment

In this part of the programme participants identify in detail how to create the best possible environments – physical, emotional and spiritual – to develop the children of their vision.

Internalised oppression and how to be together

We have all caught, and been taught, roles that affect who and how we are based on our race, gender, class, lifestyle and other such characteristics. MCTT enables participants to identify and understand the impact of oppression and internalised oppression on themselves, their relationship to others and of course, children.



How to BE together

In this module, participants identify behaviours, learnt as a result of upbringing, which can undermine the development of meaningful, open and honest relationships.

Child development

Participants learn about “taught” theories of child development and compare them with “caught” messages about child development. They learn about the various child development theorists and identify which theories

would best support their vision for their children's development.

Personal vision

Participants explore their own personal vision and identify the barriers and opportunities towards achieving their vision.

Planning

Participants learn about the importance of planning to continue working towards fulfilling their vision.

Quotes from MCTT participants

- It gave me new perspectives on life itself, how to live more productively and pro-actively. I learnt a lot about myself and why I do what I do and how my actions impact on everyone around me. I have a better understanding of the importance of giving strokes and the positive effects they can produce.
 - Glad to have had the chance to take part. I was touched mentally, spiritually and physically and hope to keep it close to my heart in all my transactions with people.
 - I have developed massively in all areas of personal and working development. I feel I have grown enormously from this course and that I can see how life from others points of view and appreciate and acknowledge they have feelings too.
- I have always thought of myself as empathetic but now feel I have a real understanding of myself and where I am coming from, life changing.
- This is the best course I have been on (I am a B.A. graduate – I have learnt more in 12 weeks than in 5 years). It is inspirational, I have learnt to accept and be accepted by others, I understand that I have a lot to offer children and the community and just need to prioritise these goals, put in a plan of action and just go ahead and do it. MCTT is a valuable tool to achieving these goals.
 - Everything and anything I heard and did in MCTT was a gain, but for me personally to look at my family life and affect it in a positive way was

the biggest gain. I learnt so much about myself as person, now things will only get better. I've gone from someone without a vision to someone who knows exactly what I want to do and how to do it, and my main priority; my children will be the biggest gainers of all.

- I realised that if we do not have vision then there is nothing in this life. Without vision we are lost and cannot see.
- This course is a brilliant idea to bring staff and parents together and remove boundaries which we, as parents, sometimes presume we have with staff.
- Paying attention to children's needs is vital in creating a peaceful society.
- I learnt so much about myself as a person, now things will only get better. I've gone from someone without a vision to someone who knows exactly what I want to do and how to do it, and my main priority.
- Whenever she has done anything wrong I always used to shout at her, but now I talk to her and try to explain to her.
- Some parents think that children have to do as they are told by shouting all the time, and that is a constant thing that goes on in the house. Obviously it will affect the child's developmental needs and lead to child problems, children

have less self esteem and confidence as they grow older, so it is about teaching the parent a different approach that every child has a way of doing things and if you are calm the child now listens and responds back to you and it works, it really works.

- I am more aware of the environment, I look around on the street, at the buildings MCTT has made me realise that there is something more, especially in a multi-cultural society.
- I really enjoyed these modules because it made me wake up and get me thinking that no matter what colour, race or people you come from we all seem to have something in common with everyone no matter how rich or poor educated you are. (Life is part of a jigsaw we all fit in with each other.) No matter if you are black or white.
- I missed one day (of the programme) and wish I had another five days to make up for it.

