

## NEWSLETTER 55 - AUTUMN 2023

### The conscious use of values

As individuals, the more we realise that what is actually motivating and guiding us are our values, the more empowered we become. Values are what matter most to us. They are the passion in our hearts, determining what we prioritise and the reason we do the things we do.



WORLD  
VALUES  
DAY 2023

**World Values Day** is an annual campaign to increase the awareness and practice of values around the world. This year the festival was celebrated on 19 October.

In a world that can feel increasingly divided, values help unite us. They are the glue holding together our communities and wider society. The campaign theme for 2023 was ***Values Bring Us Together***.

When the Human Values Foundation was established in August 1995, few schools seemed to be actively promoting the concept of values. What a sea change there has been! All schools now display on their websites, their core values that, to varying degrees, characterise the school's culture and what teachers hope to achieve for their pupils.

What we feel is heartening is that a significant shift is taking place in the education sector and in a direction we have always advocated. There is a growing emphasis on providing relevant curricula, developing the whole person and equipping young citizens with the attitudes, skills, knowledge and values they need to succeed and lead happy, purposeful lives.

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### Special news! Our new programme for ages 3 to 5

In January we received the exciting news about being awarded a grant from the prestigious **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)**. Their Early-Stage Development and Pilot work supports the advancement of educational innovations with the aim of making more evidence-based approaches available to schools and early years settings. Research has shown that: ***by the age of five, the attainment levels of children from disadvantaged backgrounds are, on average, four months behind their better off peers and such gaps can double by the end of primary schooling.***

The EEF are funding projects that can answer the most important questions as suggested by the existing evidence base and school priorities, addressing the areas that are likely to be most beneficial for socio-economically disadvantaged children. Empowering such children, and thereby improving their life chances, has always been central to our work.

The EEF have contributed towards the costs of our team devoting the last few months to attending their fantastically informative workshops and their carefully structured process in order for us to design, package and deliver training that advances practitioners' skillsets and an innovative programme for ages 3 to 5 that we have called **THE BIG 3 AND ME (TB3+ME)**. We are also grateful for a donation towards the engaging resources we have incorporated.

**PEACE**  
**Being**

Practitioners delight in:  
✓ eased Workload  
✓ Wellbeing focus  
✓ WOW factors!

**TRUTH**  
**Doing**

**LOVE**  
**Caring**

24 high-quality, flexible, engaging Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED) modules for effective pre-school learning

THE Big 3 + Me provides a secure base for life with enjoyable, scaffolded, active participation enabling children to:  
**THRIVE at 3, FLOURISH at 4 and FLY at 5**

The Big 3 + Me for ages 3 to 5

[the-big-think.org/the-big-3-me](http://the-big-think.org/the-big-3-me)

The Big Think

Taking account of the expected milestones from implementing the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage programme and using as a framework, 3 of the 5 core values in our programme THE BIG THINK (for ages 5 to 11), we have devised stimulating, stretching training sessions that extend knowledge and expertise and built a resource that progressively equips very young children with key social, emotional, communication and language skills, including a vocabulary to express feelings. The toolkit they gain enhances their cognitive development and attainment levels and lays foundations for healthy, happy, fulfilling lives.

- \* **PEACE – Being** – 8 modules foster **Self-Regulation** skills
- \* **TRUTH – Doing** – 8 modules nurture **Self-Awareness** skills
- \* **LOVE – Caring** – 8 modules advance **Relationship-Building** skills

TB3+ME is currently being enthusiastically piloted in 12 nurseries and schools in less well off parts of London, including 5 schools that already benefit from THE BIG THINK.

## Perpetuating the human touch as AI takes off

Human qualities, such as CARING, will be amongst the most needed as Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolutionises the ways in which we live and work. Whilst this rapidly evolving technology creates intelligent machines and automates an ever-widening range of tasks hitherto performed by people, what will remain essential for everyone is the central importance of human relationships skills.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** skills are considered fundamental for learning. The EEF has found that studies consistently demonstrate a higher prevalence of PSED needs in socially disadvantaged communities. Supporting PSED skills is now a priority following the disruption to so many young citizens' progress due to the coronavirus crisis.

We have designed **THE BIG 3 +ME** to deliver Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL), fill identified gaps in practitioners' training and PSED practices, and provide high quality resources that nurture PSED and self-regulation abilities for pre-school children. Our intention is to close attainment gaps in early years development, and better still, prevent them from occurring. This is the view of our Education Advisor, Sir Anthony Seldon: ***"What a joy that The BIG 3 + ME grows vital human skills in both Early Years Practitioners AND their little learners! This PSED programme is surely a game-changer."***

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## THE BIG THINK – fostering professionalism and wellbeing

In 2022, to help primary school teachers better understand and manage their own wellbeing and the increasing social and emotional anxieties of many of their pupils, we assembled a free resource that we called [THE BIG FIVE PROJECT](#). It is a pack of 10 lessons from THE BIG THINK programme (5 for ages 5 to 7 and a further 5 for ages 7 to 11) that can be used to run a 5-week project to improve the wellbeing of both staff and children.



**THE BIG FIVE** pack has been chosen as a **WELLBEING FINALIST** because of how it:

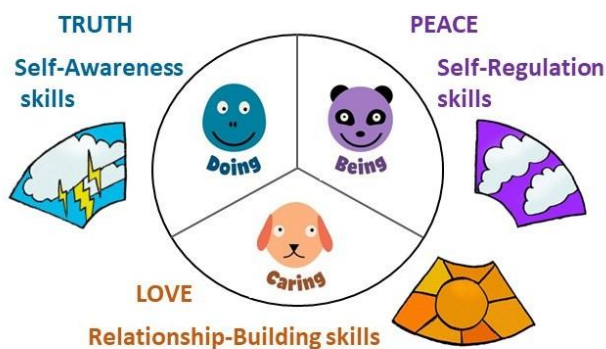
- ❖ ***promotes happiness and health** for pupils and teachers alike*
- ❖ ***supports teachers in delivering the highest standards in education***
- ❖ ***provides the very best educational experience for children aged 5 to 11.***

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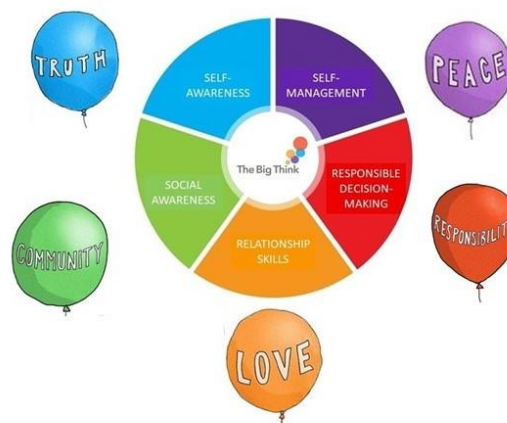
## A joined-up approach to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

As we work on the frontline of education, it is apparent that teachers are grappling with ever more challenges associated with the mental health and wellbeing of the children in their schools. We are being told that many of this year's intake aged 3 to 5 have behavioural issues that probably stem from vital social and emotional learning they have missed out on because of experiences during the height of the coronavirus crisis.

A number of teachers who have learnt about our new programme for pre-school children are considering using it for their 5- and 6-year-olds, especially those who have under-developed social, emotional, communication and language skills that are stymying their learning.



The Big 3 + Me for ages 3 to 5



The Big Think for ages 5 to 11

## Supporting the HVF

A BIG THANK YOU to the trustees of The Barleycorn Trust and The Broyst Foundation for donations towards our core costs. These grants are much appreciated, especially during the current very difficult financial climate. We are also immensely grateful to all who wish to remain anonymous and those who have generously made donations and subscribed as Members and Friends since our last newsletter, including Roger Arthur, Alyson Carter, Joy Carter, Winkie Harrison, Tim Lipscomb, Anthony and Nicole O'Flaherty, Penelope Sapiro, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg and Polly Stone.

Your generosity allows our team to adopt a future-oriented perspective, relentlessly developing and supporting those teaching, guiding, mentoring and raising the emerging generation. We look forward to progressing even further, experiential-learning resources and training for rich, deep and meaningful education and early interventions. Admiration for the transformative, profound and long-lasting differences we are making to pupils during their critically formative years strengthens our resolve to go on being a solution provider.

AND FINALLY ...

We always value your comments, suggestions and ideas about how we might win sponsorship for our various ongoing endeavours. Feel free to ask for information about The Big Think and The Big 3 + ME programmes and share it with your family members, friends, colleagues, potential subscribing Friends of our charity and others. Do contact:

Rosemary Dewan, Human Values Foundation,  
The Coach House, Salisbury Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0AJ

Alternatively ring 01403 259711 or e-mail: [yes2values@hvf.org.uk](mailto:yes2values@hvf.org.uk).

The charity's website is: [www.humanvaluesfoundation.com](http://www.humanvaluesfoundation.com).

The Big Think's website is: [www.the-big-think.org](http://www.the-big-think.org).

***The HVF team wishes our readers a healthy and enjoyable winter.***

**Patrons:** Sir Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FRSL, FKC, DL;  
Prof Kamran Mofid, PhD; Dr Kevin Auton, PhD

**Education Advisor:** Sir Anthony Seldon, MA, PhD, FRSA, MBA, FRHistS, FKC

