**Preparing Kids for Success:**

Most parents want their children to be successful. As a parent what can be done in order to help your child be successful. It starts as early as infancy. The more involved you are as a parent the higher chances your child will be successful. For instance, from speaking to the fetus in your womb to reading to your infant even though he or she does not know how to read, stimulates and makes your child more interested. The more involved you are as a parent the better the chances you will teach your child the right tools to become successful. For instance, when your child is in elementary school sitting down with their homework. Not just checking it but being really involved with it makes a difference. If you start when they are young, you teach them how to do it when they are older. They learn the steps to being successful.

Being a good role model is very important. Not every parent has a career they love that they can use to help their child model but even if you have a job you don’t like, you can still use yourself as an example for your child. As a parent being dedicated, responsible, available to listen to your child’s needs, all of these qualities help your child develop in a healthy manner leading to becoming successful.

**Social Play in Kindergarten:**

Social play in Kindergarten is so important. Education in the United States has changed significantly since I was a child. The focus has become on starting rigorous academic learning early on, such as in Kindergarten. Unfortunately, many of the approaches today in Kindergarten are not developmentally appropriate. They are losing sight of what is important and putting too much pressure on children leading to increased anxiety.

Social play is very important. Although, eventually later in life things will be more serious it is still important for children to have social play. Social play allows children to learn other important tools for the future, such as how to engage with same age peers. It develops emotional intelligence, which is as important as cognitive abilities.

Learning social skills teaches children about limits and boundaries. It teaches them how to have self-control. It helps them learn about emotion regulation and increasing their frustration tolerance. It is one of the first places where children are able to role model how to socialize in an appropriate manner.

**Effects of Toxic School Culture on Children:**

A toxic school environment can affect a child in many ways. Their self-esteem can be impacted. Children spend so many hours at school. If they experience a toxic environment it can make them view themselves in a negative manner depending what is going on at school. Parents should pay attention to comments children make. If children don’t want to go to school or seem uncomfortable about going to school this may be one sign that they are experiencing discomfort at school.