

# Quinns Baptist College Advisory Committee

## Presentation – Our research training

**13 March 2013**

In the first week of our training we had an introduction to research which explained the Golden Rules of a good researcher. This included among other activities, a fun treasure hunt around our school.

### **Student Services**

The clue which led us to our student services office read - "Where will you go to **ask questions** about lost property? So, we now know that research is about **asking questions**.

### **Vegetable garden**

Another clue which took us to the school vegetable patch was "Where will you **find answers** about how tall vegetables can grow? In research we need to **find answers**.

### **Long jump pit**

To get to our long jump pit we were told to "**Carefully and Accurately** measure how far we can jump." We have discovered that you cannot guess in any part of research - we need to search for knowledge and truth and do this carefully and accurately.

### **The Kindy Class**

The clue which took us to the Kindy class was **Search for Knowledge and Truth** from the first class where you start your learning journey. **Research is searching for knowledge and truth**.

### **Crossing Game**

Taking part in many different **team building games** like the Crossing have shown us that **Teamwork is important** and **always** includes **co-operation**. It is also very important to listen to and allow **everyone** in the group to have a say. By changing teams often, we soon got to know each other too.

### **Building blocks blind-folded**

In this game, the blindfolded person was given instructions to build the exact replica of blocks. This was really difficult and taught us the importance of face to face observation and of course choosing your words carefully.

## **Post it notes**

We **really enjoy sharing our opinions** with the use of **post it notes**. Here we are giving suggestions about what to call the project. **Children's Choices** came from this brainstorming session.

## **Observing the Kindy students at play**

We were given the awesome opportunity of **observing** the Kindy students at play and learnt that **observation** was one way to gather Data. Although this was a fun activity, we now know that this Observation technique requires a lot of focus and concentration to be accurate.

## **Interviewing one another**

By asking **open** and **closed** questions, we learnt that we have to show concern for others by always acting **ethically** – while interviewing someone, you have to **show respect for their views** and always record the truth of their answers, **even if they are not the same as yours**.

## **Questionnaires**

As a group we put some **very** careful thinking into the questions we asked for the survey. We included **open** and **closed questions** as well as **rated questions**. Here we are testing the questions **for** each group **on each other** to check that we have used the **best possible wording** so that students will not be confused and that all our instructions are clear.

## **Letter of permission**

A good researcher always asks permission. Together as a group we compiled a letter to ask our principal's permission to conduct the survey at our school among the Year 4,5 and 6 students. We learnt that if we surveyed one of the two classes for each year group, then this would be representative of the group providing that the classes were not streamed.

Last week Mathilda our trainer from the Sheridan Research Institute, taught us about Data Analysis.

## **Quantitative analysis**

We learnt to look for evidence of certain topics (eg age, gender etc.) in the magazines we were given and then tally these before presenting our findings clearly and accurately on a poster to the group. Here we discovered that **accuracy** was more important than **presentation**! We also learnt to put our data into a table in Excel, and then learnt how to create a graph from this data.

## **Qualitative analysis**

Here we are doing an exercise about thematic analysis. Identifying the themes from interviews. We have discovered that research is hard work, but that the 'why' questions or open-ended questions give us many different views and help us find deeper answers to our questions.

After recess today, we will be gathering our data from the questionnaires which the students have completed. We are keen to start tallying and analysing the results of our data which we can then put onto graphs in preparation for our presentation to the Commissioner and our parents in April.