

THE STRAW THROUGH THE POTATO ASSEMBLY

Ask your family,

- Is it possible to get a straw through a potato?

What do they think?

Plant a seed of doubt in the mind of your children, the straws will bend or the potato is too hard. Will they give up when they think it's impossible?

If you plant doubt it can be self-fulfilling.

Ask your family,

- Can you remember a time when you didn't think you could do something – a time when you just gave up?
- What did you feel like?
- How long did the feeling last?
- Did it affect other things you tried?

Reassure your family that it is possible to get a straw through a potato and maybe even offer a prize to those who manage it successfully.

If you have a potato and straws ask everyone to have a go.

Ask your family,

- What made a difference?
- How can you get a straw through a potato?

Here's how you do it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ewpwylbxec>

So, ***what is the point of 'straw through potato' experiment:***

1. If you plant doubt, it can be self-fulfilling. By suggesting that it might not be possible, sure enough, some people conclude that it is impossible. But if you simply ask 'how can it be done?', the question is not 'if' but 'how'.
2. Trial and error and testing things out will often lead to better solutions than lots of debate and discussion about what might work in theory. It's a hands-on solution; it's physical.
3. Sometimes a direct approach is the best solution – just go for it. Do it. Believe that the straw will go through in one stabbing motion.
4. The satisfaction of that stabbing action, penetrating the potato, is quite addictive. Try it. You immediately want to do it again. Overcoming a difficulty and experiencing success is a great feeling – even if it is just stabbing a potato.

Reflection time:

- Why is it important to be positive before you try something new or tricky?
- What challenge would you like to achieve?
- What steps can you take to achieve your goal?
- How can you support each other?