



What's Different

To write this story I had a conversation with Matilda about the changes she has experienced since 2001. She was very clear about the differences she has experienced around managing and initiating her own learning and how she feels about this. In writing this story I have not changed what Matilda shared with me as I believe it demonstrates significant change.

My name is Matilda.

Today I am in Year 5 and my school day is very different to how it was in 2001 when I was in year 3.

In 2001 I was given difficult contracts to do with a short time span and I couldn't use other areas of the school for my learning. My contract wasn't often completed because I found it too difficult. I felt very uncomfortable and unhappy and would get into trouble. I cried a lot and felt worried in class. I didn't really want to come to school.

Now I feel very safe, happy and the work, which we are given, is just right for me because I get to plan my learning in a learning plan and I feel I can complete the work in the time I am given. It's still really challenging and I learn a lot and the teacher knows this. An example of this is when I wanted to make an I-Movie. I found it really challenging but I found out how to do it and it was still fun. I feel very comfortable and confident with the way my learning is going now. My teacher trusts me to use any area of the school for my learning and I use the class system to go to other areas when I need to.

I have made more friends and I think this is because of the way I am learning. I need to work with different people and I am getting to know other people in the class much better. If I need a quiet place for my learning I go to the Resource Centre.

I value the way my teacher lets us learn because we get to choose where we sit as long as we work on our task.

I feel that I am more in control of what I learn. I feel more mature.

I like the way I am trusted to use the phone, computers, photocopier and cameras for my learning plans and I am now an expert with computers, cameras and other technology. In Year 3 I didn't know how to use these and I wasn't allowed to.

I feel excited about coming to school, I love being at school and I don't want to stay at home if I am a bit sick.

I feel like I take more responsibility for my own learning.

Comment:

Matildas has experienced two quite different styles of teaching in the past three years. The first a traditional one, familiar to us all, with the work and the environment determined by the teacher.

*Matilda now plans and manages her own learning.
Her sense of empowerment is obvious.*