

What Educators Wish Parents Would Do to Help Their Child in School

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Most parents want to know how they can help their children succeed in school. Hopefully, this article will assist parents in helping their children be successful in school.

First of all, kids learn best when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents know their children better than anyone else. Teachers are trained in ways to help children learn. When parents and teachers work together, the results can be powerful. A successful partnership is important.

Here are some tips for parents:

1. Get to know and communicate with your child's teacher. Work out a way to communicate regularly with the teacher. If your child seems to be having problems, you and your child's teachers might come up with a checklist that the teacher sends home and you initial.
2. Share important information that can make it easier for teachers to understand your child. Sometimes things that happen at home can affect how children learn. A family move, divorce, and even the birth of a baby can all leave a child feeling a little off kilter.
3. Find out what's expected. Ask about homework and other special assignments. Look at the papers your child brings home. Sit down and discuss it and talk about what your child got right and what he/she got wrong. Don't nag – just ask your child why he/she answered as he/she did.
4. Emphasize academics. School is your child's job. Other interests – from athletics to TV, friends and games – must take a back seat.
5. Join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Be sure to volunteer for at least one thing during the school year. That way, you'll be making things better for your child ... and for all children in school.
6. Make sure your child comes to school on time each day. Attendance is important. Learning builds day by day. Even the best teachers can't do the job if your child is absent. (Of course, your child should stay home if he/she is ill.)
7. Encourage your child to do his or her best. Show you believe that education is important. Set high expectations and tell him/her what these expectations are. Let him/her know you want him/her to do the best he/she possibly can.
8. Set a good example. Actions really do speak louder than words. When you spend time reading, you show your child that reading is enjoyable and useful.
9. Set a regular time for homework. Be a good example by doing some work yourself at the same time. While your child is doing school work, you can sit nearby and pay bills or do other work of your own. Provide resources at home. You don't need a lot of expensive equipment, but you should

have a place for your child to study. The kitchen table works just fine. A few basic, inexpensive reference books – a dictionary, an atlas, *etc* – will make study time easier.

10. Understand that when parents and teachers are on the same team, children win every time!

Parents, you do have a strong influence over your child's success in school. When parents support the value and benefits of going to school, children will be more successful.

Thank you for being caring and concerned parents and working on the same team!