

Ways Parents/Guardians Can Help Children Succeed in School

What are some ways parents and guardians can ensure that their children are successful in school? Here are some basic, yet very important tips that every family can use:

Make a point to meet your children's teachers and principal. Attending your children's school's open house in the fall is a great way to meet school staff. Find out how to reach their teachers and principal via e-mail or phone. Ask when the best time to contact them is. That way, if your children have problems in school you will be able to contact their teachers and work on a solution before the problems worsen.

Communicate regularly with their teachers. Check on your children's progress once a month. If they are having difficulty, check in more frequently until the children get on track. Ask what you can do at home to help your child. Attend parent/teacher conferences.

Read to your children regularly. Reading to children helps them develop a love of reading, plus it teaches them new vocabulary words. Children who are read to at home usually become strong readers themselves. Being a strong reader will surely help children succeed in school.



Attend events at your children's school. Many schools organize events that give parents and caregivers strategies they can use to help their children achieve in school. Make a point to attend *Family Math Nights*, *Story Nights*, *Science Nights*, *Books for Bingo*, *Parent/Child Book Clubs*, or other activities. Find out if there is a Parent Information Center in your district. If there is, visit it regularly. Take advantage of everything the school district has to offer!



Create a homework/study area in your home. After summer vacation, it may be difficult to get children back into the routine of studying. Adults can help by setting up a quiet homework area. This area should have supplies that children need to complete assignments: pencils, paper, a dictionary/thesaurus, erasers, scissors, tape, etc. Set a daily time slot for children to do homework that works for them, for example, a time when they are not too tired or involved in an extracurricular activity. During the allotted "homework/study" time, adults can support children by reading or working quietly nearby.

Teach responsibility and organizational skills. Show children how to pack their homework and other materials they need for school in their backpack for the next day.

Praise your children for a job well done! When children feel good about themselves and their accomplishments, they are more motivated to succeed. Even when your children are having difficulty in school, let them know that you are there to help. ☆

