

Success In School

**The Facts**

Recent studies have shown that children's success in school depends as much on their parents as on their teachers. As a parent, you are their most important teacher. The learning process begins when your children are infants, thus providing a foundation for school learning. In the beginning stages of growth, children learn vital skills, manners and speech from you, their parent. As they grow up, they constantly look up to you as a role model and for guidance. Your role as a teacher should never end, especially when they enter school.

Encourage Learning Early On**Talk with your child, not at your child**

-Baby talk shouldn't be in your vocabulary. Try to use full sentences when communicating with your child. Always listen to what he/she has to say. Overall, allow your child to express his/her feelings to you freely.

Encourage, encourage, encourage!

-Making mistakes is an important part of life. We all make them. Rather than stressing the importance of failure and/or success, stress the importance of moving forward and trying again.

Give your child creative freedom

-Creativity is fun, as well as educational for both you and your child. If it's music he/she likes, sing songs with him/her. If reading has caught his/her interest, ask your child to make up a story. In general, allow your child the opportunity to discover his/her talents.

Read with your child

-Read often with your child. Ask questions in regard to the story, the characters, the plot, etc. In turn, answer any questions he/she may have.

Discipline

-Rather than saying "don't do that" all the time, reinforce a positive approach to disciplining by saying, "do this."

Treat your child as an individual

-Don't make your child feel inferior and/or superior by comparing his/her development to other children's developmental patterns. Though there are strong similarities among children of the same age, not every child develops at the same pace.

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Ways Parents Can Help

- Help them develop their goals.
- Be available to aid them when they need you.
- Advise them and give them your support.
- Praise your children when they have done something well.
- Help them visualize success and acknowledge their progress.

Students' Study Secrets

Ways children can succeed at school:

#1 Set goals for yourself

Goals should be specific. What is it that you wish to accomplish. For example, you may want to improve your grade in science. You will want to set the following goal: To increase my test score in science up to a letter grade B. Write down your goal(s) and brainstorm as to what you will need to do in order to accomplish it.

#2 Manage your time

The things you want to do are very different from the things you have to do. Plan ahead by using a calendar. Write in the things you have to do (for example: baseball practice, club meetings, etc.). Next, fill in your assignments on the day they are to be turned in. As you will see, you may have to start on an assignment days before it is due in order to make baseball practice. Remember, school comes first. Fun is always second.

#3 Take notes

Most of the time teachers will tell you what's likely to be on a test. Taking notes will allow you to know ahead of time what needs to be studied. Try and review them quickly after class. This will help the information move into your brain's long-term memory.

#4 Study, study, study

Studying the night before a test is not always the best plan in order to get a good grade. Put in a little time every night for each of your subjects. The next time you have to study for a test, you will ease through the process.

#5 Review your assignments

Check for accuracy in your assignments and reports. Reviewing the assignment guidelines and proofing the actual assignment are two important steps of homework that shouldn't be overlooked.

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