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Learning Together -

Help your child at school

A Practical Guide for Families

More Parents Associated for Learning
More Parents Associated for Learning

Empowering parents to become more
actively involved in their child's education,
school and community
school and community

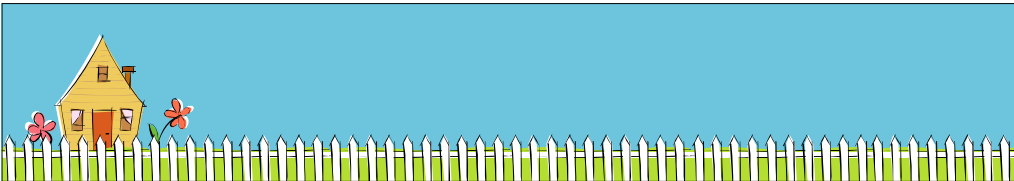


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Communicate with the School



- As a parent, you know your children best. Share the children's strengths and weaknesses with the teachers.
- Keep in touch with the teachers all the time.
- Use parent-teacher

meetings to talk to the teachers about your children's habits, the language spoken in the home, or any other culturally relevant aspects which could help the teacher understand the difficulties your children face.

- Get in touch with the school whenever the children have fears related to school situations.
- Ask about the way the teachers evaluate children's learning: what percentage of the grade is for participation in the lesson, what for homework or for tests.
- Learn about all the requirements teachers have for your children's school performance, and all their expectations and rules about homework.
- Find out well in advance about things your children may need to have for school (any books to read, etc.).
- Find out what after-school activities the school provides for children.
- Discuss with the teachers about the possibility of individual learning plans for your children.

Family and Learning



The family is the children's first teacher. It is the family that shapes the child's attitude to learning. It is in the family that children learn to communicate, socialise and solve problems. Today's children meet with high expectations from school and society, which is why they need a lot of support, care and love to be successful.

Parents and carers have an important role to play in ensuring children's school success. If you have children to care for, you can find out how to help them by reading and following some of the suggestions in our brochure:

TEACH THEM HOW TO LEARN
PREPARE THEM FOR TESTS
COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

Teach Them How to Learn



- Every day, talk to your children about school.
 - In daily conversations, encourage the children to set goals for success and make small plans on how to reach them. Celebrate successful achievement of each goal.
- Every day, check whether your children have done their homework and make sure they have a quiet place where they can do it.
 - Read as much as you can with your children: books, magazines, newspapers, things from the Internet, etc.
 - Join the local library as a family
 - Teach them to do crossword puzzles, solve riddles, or do mathematical games.
 - Teach them to search for interesting information in books, newspapers, in the library, on the Internet.
 - Watch children's shows together on Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic, etc.
 - Set a good example for your children:
 - Let them see you read books, newspapers, magazines.
 - Let them see you writing: for example, reports, letters, emails, to-do lists.
 - Let your children see how you use maths in everyday life: calculate the cost of making improvements to the home, daily expenditure.
 - Talk to your children about what you do at work.

Prepare Them for Tests



- Help them understand why they do tests in school and find out when the next test is.
 - Participate in parent-teacher meetings and find out what forms of evaluation the teachers use. Discuss them with your children.
- Ask the teachers what kind of exercises you could do with your children at home to help them prepare for tests.
 - Encourage your children to read the instructions carefully, to skip questions they cannot answer, and to return to them when they have done the rest if they still have time.
 - Praise your children for what they have done well. This will help them develop self-confidence.
 - Do not get upset by the results obtained in one single test.
 - Discuss the answers your children got wrong in the test.
 - Try to have reasonable expectations from your children. Discuss these expectations together.
 - Read the teachers' comments and suggestions carefully and discuss them with your children. If they are unclear, encourage your children to ask the teachers for clarification, or ask yourself.
 - Make sure your children sleep well and enough the night before a test.