

ACTION INFORMATION SHEET

Want to Help Your Child Succeed in School? Be Involved!

All parents want their children to do well in school. One way to help children succeed is to be involved in their education. When parents participate, children achieve. Students learn more, earn higher grades, and have better school attendance.

You can do many things to help your child do well in school. Try these tips!

Support Both Sides of Academic Achievement

- **Skills and Scores:** Tests and grades matter for student success. Teachers work with children on skills and scores at school.
 - o Encourage your child's efforts at completing homework. Homework helps children learn more, be smarter, and be more successful when they grow up.
 - o Create a good environment for doing homework and make sure your child can find help if needed.
 - o Learn about report cards and go to school conferences. You and your child's teacher can celebrate successes and deal with any problems when they are still small.
 - o If your child needs help in skills and scores, make a plan with the teacher for extra help. Many resources are available.
- **Attitudes and Behaviors:** Students' feelings about and approaches to schoolwork also affect success. You help your child succeed when you:
 - o Believe in his or her ability to do well
 - o Teach him or her that learning is fulfilling
 - o Help your child learn self-control and strategies for completing work

- o Through your own interactions with the teacher, show your child ways to respectfully clearly state needs and questions. Help your child practice these same skills.

Know How You Can Help Your Child Succeed

Here are four techniques that work:

- **Encouragement**
 - o Let your child know you believe education is important.
 - o Volunteer at your child's school.
- **Modeling**
 - o Let your child see you learn
 - o Stick with and complete difficult tasks
- **Reinforcement**
 - o Praise your child for learning and working hard
 - o Ask your child every day how school was. Talk about any concerns.
- **Instruction**
 - o Work with your child on homework
 - o Model "life lessons" such as completing a tough job, learning from mistakes, and meeting commitments. Discuss how these skills apply to school.

Want More Ideas? Call the Minnesota Parent Center.

The Minnesota Parent Center helps parents be strong partners in their children's education. It also encourages community involvement to help all children be prepared for school and to succeed when they arrive there. The center's multi-cultural staff can answer questions about early childhood learning and school-related problems for all children. They also provide helpful written materials and offer workshops on topics such as the No Child Left Behind Act, parental involvement, and more. All services are free.

Call 952-838-9000 or 800-53-PACER (toll free in Greater Minnesota) to see how you can help your child do well in school. You also can learn more online at www.PACER.org/mpc.

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PACER is a statewide nonprofit organization. It supports the educational rights of children with and without disabilities. It offers workshops, individual assistance, written information, and more.

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