



Parents with High Expectations

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

Support school achievement

- **Skills and scores:** Tests and grades matter for student success. Teachers work with children on skills (such as reading and math) and then score their knowledge at school. Here are some ideas how you can help your child with skills and test scores outside of school.
 - Homework helps children learn more and be more successful when they grow up. To help your child with homework skills:
 - Encourage your child's efforts to complete homework
 - Create a quiet space or room for doing homework
 - Make sure your child can find help with homework if needed
 - Learn about how report cards are graded and go to school conferences. You and your child's teacher can celebrate successes and talk about any problems when they are still new.
 - 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:
 - Believe in his or her ability to do well
 - Teach him or her that learning is important
 - Help your child enjoy learning and take pride in completing his or her work
 - Through your own interactions with the teacher, show your child ways to respectfully and clearly state needs and questions. Help your child practice these same skills.

How you can help your child succeed

Here are five techniques that work:

- **Encourage**
 - Let your child know you believe education is important.
 - Volunteer at your child's school if you are able to do it.
- **Model**
 - Let your child see you learn.
 - Stick with and complete your own difficult tasks.

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- **Reinforce**
 - Praise your child for learning and working hard.
 - Ask your child how school is every day. Talk about any positive examples or concerns.
 - **Instruct**
 - Work with your child on homework.
 - Model “life lessons,” such as completing a tough job, learning from mistakes, and meeting requirements. Discuss how these skills apply to school.
 - **Celebrate your child’s success**
 - Serve your child’s favorite food for dinner.
 - Let your child choose a special movie for the family to watch.
 - Share your child’s success with friends and family. Let your child hear you do this.
 - Display school work on the refrigerator or bulletin board at home.

When parents participate, children achieve. Students learn more, have higher grades, and have better school attendance.

Questions?

Do you have questions about school achievement? You can call PACER Center at (952) 838-9000 and ask to speak with PACER staff who work on the **Parents with High Expectations Project**.

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