

Your Role in Your Child's Education

By Jodie Hopkins

My child is finally
old enough for
school, now
what?

Your Role - in KG



Read, read, read

In English when possible, in your native language when not possible!

- Read at least 20 minutes with your child every day
 - Shows Education is Important
 - Bonding
 - Build Vocabulary
 - Build opportunities for your child to see you reading
 - If it seems important to you, it will be important to them
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Ask Questions

1. When children are young, they will tell you everything, if you don't listen and keep asking, they will stop telling
2. Find out what they are learning and read about it with them on the internet
3. Talk about things that you wonder
4. Ask about how it is going with friends and teachers



Elementary School



Never stop
reading to them
and with them

Read, read, read

Students who read regularly are more successful in school

- Building vocabulary
- Building comprehension
- Developing a love of learning
- Self regulation
- Fluency

What if my child doesn't like to read?

- Continue to read to them
 - Every child still wants that close one on one contact with someone who loves and cares about them
 - Sharing books is an easy way to share ideas, share your values, stress what is important to you
 - Try different kinds of reading materials - comic books, magazines, online material, non-fiction
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More ideas in overall learning in the elementary years

- Be a role model for learning
- Pay attention to what your child loves and find experiences to engage them
- Tune in to how your child learns - do they like to read, do art, talk about things, build things? Find ways to encourage their interests
- Help your child make connections to their world and their education
- Help your child take charge of their learning
- Don't overschedule your child
- Keep TV to a minimum
- Learn something new about yourself

Middle School and High School



Your time and
interest is the
most important
gift your child
needs

Social

These years are years of enormous growth in social development

- Ask them how it is going
- Find ways for them to be with their friends so school isn't their only social outlet
- Know the kids your student is hanging out with
- Watch their social media

Red Flags

- Watch for signs that your student wants to avoid school
 - It is important to explore deeper if your student's grades are dropping suddenly
 - Any sudden change in hygiene, eating habits, or motivation
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Academic Skills

- Stay in contact with your student's teachers
- Ask your student about what they are learning, if they can't answer, it might be time to sit with them and do homework with them
- If they are struggling, consider a tutor who can support them in their work
- Talk about how your education has impacted your life
- Talk about what they hope for as an adult
- Talk about your expectations in a loving and supportive way so they can remain open and honest with their struggles

Conclusion

No matter the age of your student, your presence, your time and asking questions are key elements of building a successful student. If your life is extremely busy, find ways to carve out time and attention to show your student they are still a very important part of your life.

Small group tables

Table 1 - KG parents - Discuss ways that you do or would like to do to encourage literacy in your home for your student.

Table 2 - Elementary parents - Discuss ways that you are or would like to implement supporting your student with their homework.

Table 3 - Middle School and High School parents - Discuss ways that you do or would like to do to spend quality time with your student.