



Parent Partners

How parents can make a difference
in their child's education

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What are the best predictors of successful students?

Research shows

- That students are successful when the home environment encourages learning
- That students are successful when parents/caregivers demonstrate reasonable expectations
- That students are successful when parents/caregivers are involved in children's education at school and in the community

Barriers to Parent Involvement

- Time
- Culture
- Language



Acceptance – parents are involved, responsive and liberal with praise.

Firmness – parents set clear limits, have reasonable standards, have consequences for behavior and are consistent.

Autonomy – parents value self-expression, independence and speaking up for what you believe in.

Activity

- Your child comes home with a disappointing report card. What would an 'accepting' response be? What would a 'rejecting' response be?
- Your child dislikes doing her/his homework and often leaves it to the end of the evening when she and you are tired. Together, you set up a plan for regularly completing homework after school. In the first week, your child asks to do something else (instead of sticking to the plan) on two of the days. What would a 'firm' response be? What would a 'lenient' response be?

Research shows...

that parents who are closer to acceptance, firmness and autonomy have children who are more successful in school.

Activity

Research strips for discussion

1. Is this important? Why or why not?
Est-ce que cela est important? Dans l'affirmative ou la négative, expliquez pourquoi?
2. Do you do it at home? Why or why not?
Est-ce que vous le faisiez à la maison? Dans l'affirmative ou la négative, expliquez pourquoi?
3. What are the barriers to implementing it at home?
Quels sont les obstacles à l'intervention à la maison?
4. How could you overcome these barriers?
Comment pouvez-vous surmonter ces obstacles?

Establish a consistent daily family routine. Get children ready for school every morning. Be firm about times to get up and to go to bed. Help with homework.

Research shows...

Families whose children do well in school have a home life with a daily routine that helps their children be prepared to learn at school; that encourage their child's growth and progress in school.

Read to your children and have them read to you. Talk together about what you have read. Write letters, lists and messages.

Research shows...

Families whose children do well in school have a home life that includes reading, writing, and discussions among family members.

Listen to and talk with your child about things that are important to you both. Have high expectations and show interest in your child's progress at school.

Research shows...

Families whose children do well in school have a home life that includes discussions among family members. Families whose children do well in school express high but realistic expectations for achievement.

Set limits on TV watching, video playing and internet surfing.

Research shows...

Families whose children do well in school monitor out-of-school activities. Too much time spent watching TV can reduce time available for more active learning situations; can affect children's relationships and attention span.

Respect and understand a teacher's role in your child's education, as well as your own role. Stay in touch with teachers and school staffs.

Research shows...

The most powerful combination for learning is the family and school working together. Children's attitudes and performance in school increase when parents and teachers understand and respect each other, share similar expectations, and stay in communication.

What parents can do to make a difference – Homework

- Provide the least amount of support necessary
- Be available and accessible
- Let your children take the lead
- Do not provide answers...instead, give hints and suggestions
- Praise effort and progress
- Clarify and simplify instructions
- Make sure your child understands all the words. If not, provide a dictionary or a translation.
- Help break tasks into pieces or chunks.
- Model how to approach tasks by thinking out loud
- Work with your child to set manageable goals

What parents can do to make a difference - Home

- Provide time and a quiet place to study
- Assign responsibility for household chores
- Be firm and consistent about times to get up and to go to bed
- Have dinner together – discuss the day, tell stories, share problems
- Set limits on TV, video playing, internet (screen time)
- Check up on children when not at home
- Arrange for after-school activities and supervised care
- Maintain a warm and supportive home
- Get children ready for school every morning
- Establish a daily family routine

What parents can do to make a difference – School

- Work with your child to set manageable goals
- Have reasonable expectations for your child's performance at school
- Stay in touch with teachers about concerns and appropriate expectations
- Show interest in what your child is learning
- Be a life-long learner
- Let your child teach you
- Avoid comparing your child's grades with others
- Develop a consistent and effective discipline plan at home while supporting the school's discipline plan
- Remember there are multiple sides to any story
- Be careful about misinformation and gossip
- Come to school meetings when you are invited
- Let the school know what is going on at home



What is one thing that you will change in helping your child with homework?

Quelle est une chose que vous allez changer par rapport à aider votre enfant avec ses devoirs?

Thank you for attending our workshop!