

Get Involved – It Matters!

Overview

Being involved in your children's education helps him/her do well in school and improves the quality of your child's school. Parents can be engaged at many different levels and simple activities like reading a book together, helping with homework and emphasizing the importance of school and academic success can and does make a difference!

Here are some suggestions on how to get started.¹⁷

- Take your child to school on the first day.
- Let your child know that school is important. Be sure to ask questions about homework and set up a quiet place for your child to work.
- Read everything that is sent home from school: report cards, homework assignments, school lunch plans, and vacation and bus schedules. Show your child that you are well informed.
- Get to know your child's teachers and school principal by attending school meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
- Ask for copies of school policies (e.g., attendance and discipline). If there is something you do not understand, ask questions.
- Volunteer to help with school activities. Attend sports events, assist with fundraisers, or volunteer to work in the school office.
- Visit your child's classroom when class is in session, not just at parent-teacher conferences. Set this up in advance with the school office and the teacher.
- Talk to other parents. If there is a parent organization, join it. If there is no parent organization at your school, think about starting one. Finding two or three other interested parents is a good start.
- Encourage your child to read at home. Visit local libraries or used book mobiles, school libraries, or book fairs to pick out books together. Pick out books to read together and talk about them.
- Being involved in a child's education is just as important for step-parents, grandparents, and other adults who care for a child. Invite people who care for your child to participate in school activities.
- Your actions, not just your words, make an impression that will last a lifetime.