



A parent can help a child get good grades just by showing concern.

- Talk to your child. Find out if he is having problems with one or more subjects.
- Help your child identify problems. Does she get good grades on homework but bad grades on tests? Does she turn in all homework?
- Discuss each skill. Find out which skills she has and which ones she lacks.

Work with your child and his school to help him build needed skills and improve problems.

1. Organization

- List everything your child needs to take to school. Check his list nightly.
- Use a homework chart or assignment book to track homework.
- Keep schoolwork subjects in colorful folders or notebooks.

2. Prioritizing School Tasks

- List your child's school and non-school activities. Have your child label these tasks with a 1, 2, or 3. The number 1 tasks are the most important.

Skills for School Success

Educators know that children need basic skills in order to achieve success in school. They need to organize their work, set priorities and manage their time. You can help your child focus on his work and motivate him to succeed.

- Look at how your child has labeled the tasks. You may have to help your child change some of the labels. For example, she may have put 1s on social time and 3s on study time.
- Rewrite the list. Place all the 1s at the top of the list, then 2s, then 3s.

3. Time Management

- Be sure your child completes the top jobs first. Most students want to do the easier number 2 or number 3 tasks first and never get to number 1.
- Update the list weekly.
- Keep track of tests and project dates. Help your student fit homework and projects into his daily schedule. This avoids the stress of cramming.
- Stick to nightly homework time.
- Talk to teachers if your child needs extra study time. Some schools offer early morning and after-school study times. Consider extra study on weekends.

4. Concentration

- Limit distractions during study time. Do not allow TV or phone calls at this time.
- Keep brothers and sisters away from your child while she studies.
- Provide a study area that meets your child's needs.

A kitchen table may be needed for a big project. A well-lit desk is helpful for reading and homework.

5. Motivation

- Link school lessons to your child's life. Practice math skills when shopping. Talk about world events when watching the news or reading the newspaper.
- Encourage your child's interests. Find books, magazines or events that your child enjoys. Make a connection between his interests and school. For example, discuss how reading, planning and strategy play an important role in sports.
- Allow your child to choose her study time, place and method. This helps her take control over her study time.
- Take an interest in what your child is learning. Look at her books. Daily, ask what she has learned in school. Review her homework and tests.
- Discuss failure. Let your child know that all people fail. It is a part of learning. Encourage him. Discuss mistakes and how to avoid making them again.

Based on an article from Encarta.msn.com

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