

The Valuable Role of Parents in Student Success

All parents want their children to make friends, have positive experiences, and succeed in school. But many parents underestimate how important they are in making those things happen.

The Research is Clear...

- ▶ Parents make a meaningful difference to their children's education.
- ▶ When families are involved in education, student achievement increases.

How do you make a difference?

- ▶ **Simply demonstrating that you value education is more meaningful than you might think. Research shows that when families regularly talk about the benefits of a good education, students do better in school.**
- ▶ **Creating a positive educational environment at home is essential. You support your children's educational success by ...**
 - talking to your children about school and why you think it is so important.
 - showing an interest in what they are learning.
 - encouraging your children to do their best.
- ▶ **Being able to read is a foundation for educational success. And the good news is, you don't have to be a teaching expert to build your children's reading skills. You help your children's literacy and language development by ...**
 - helping your children access books, such as using the library in the school or in town to bring books into your home.
 - reading to your children or listening to them read to you.
 - telling stories.
 - talking with your children about topics that interest them.
- ▶ **Students must attend regularly in order to succeed in school, which families impact significantly.**
 - Making sure your children arrive at school on time every day allows them to access learning opportunities and build positive relationships.
 - Teaching children to arrive at school on time each day also builds habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

- ▶ **Students need to be rested, healthy, and ready to learn – and you help make that happen.**
 - Helping your children (even stubborn teenagers) get to bed at a reasonable time improves their ability to concentrate. Adequate sleep helps children and teens absorb new knowledge and manage their behaviour.
 - Encouraging your children (even picky eaters) to eat nutritious foods ensures they will have enough energy to learn and fully participate in school activities.

- ▶ **Meeting with teachers and school staff who support your children is critical. When school staff and families work in partnership, students' achievement increases. What can you do to help achieve that goal?**
 - Get to know your children's teachers early in the school year, and do what you can to build a positive relationship with them.
 - Read your children's report cards carefully and pay close attention to their progress in school. Review any reports or messages from teachers to know whether your children are keeping up with school assignments. Follow-up with teachers if you have specific questions.
 - Attend parent-teacher meetings.
 - Work together with school staff to maintain high expectations for your children.
 - Share your knowledge about what your children do well and what helps them learn. You know your children better than anyone else. Feel comfortable asking schools to meet with you when you have information to share.

- ▶ **Students need routines and a space to help them study.**
 - Try to set aside regular times for your children to do homework, prepare for tests, read, etc. And don't wait until too late in the evening, when your children will be tired and they should be going to bed.
 - As much as you can, find a time and space that is quiet, free from distractions, comfortable, and well-lit where your children can do their schoolwork. This might be at home, or possibly in a place the community has set up for students to study. Or ask the school for help with this if needed.
 - Help your children organize the things they need for studying, so they don't waste time looking for supplies, materials, charge cords, etc.
 - Turn off phones so your children aren't tempted to text and check the internet when they are supposed to be studying.

Do not underestimate the real difference you make in your children's educational success. Proudly remember that you are helping them learn and succeed each and every day.