

# Parents and Education

The existence of a formal system of schooling outside the home in no way absolves parents of their responsibility to guide and teach.

For better or for worse, children bear the indelible stamp of their upbringing long before they are mustered into schools.

Learning begins at home.

- ❖ Teach your child to work
- ❖ Teach your child a love and respect for books
- ❖ Teach your child how to research ( how to find out things for themselves)
- ❖ Teach your child more than school work
- ❖ Teach your child that you have time for him or her.

## Why is Parental Involvement Important?

- When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school – and the schools that they go to are better. ( Henderson & Berla)
- The family makes the critical contributions to student achievement from pre-school through high school. A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background. (Henderson & Berla).
- Reading achievement is more dependent on learning activities in the home. Reading aloud to children is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success.
- When children and parents talk regularly about school, children can perform better academically. (Aston & McLanahan, 1991, Ho & Williams, 1996 ; Finn, 1998).
- Parents who read to their children before they enter school give their children a boost toward reading success. Talking to children about books and stories read to them also supports reading achievement.

- Three kinds of parental involvement at home are constantly associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time; helping with homework; discussing school matters.
- The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects.( Kathleen Cotton & Karen Reed Wikelund)
- Positive results of parental involvement in their children's schooling include improved achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behaviour and restored confidence among parents in their children's schooling.

## Every home is a school and every parent is a teacher.

If children learn the rudiments of reading, writing and counting before they reach kindergarten, it's probably because of their parents' efforts. If they learn instead that time at home means time spent gazing blankly at the television that too is a product of parental guidance or a lack of it. Learning begins at home.

So what can we, as parents, do to further and improve our child's education? The answer is quite simple. **Be involved!** It is imperative that each parent understands how important his/her role is in the total education of the child.

## Top Ten Ways to Help Your Kids Get A's

1. **Create an environment in your home that encourages learning.**  
This will be a major influence on how well your children do in school. Provide them with many different opportunities to become excited about learning. Simple fun activities such as puzzles, painting and colouring are very useful and educational. In addition, computers are of immense importance in the education process. Make arrangements to purchase a computer – do not say it is too expensive. Make the sacrifice.
2. **Provide your children with a well-balanced life.**  
A stable home filled with love, serves as a solid foundation for doing well in school. Establish routines so your children get enough sleep eat regular nourishing meals and receive enough opportunities to exercise regularly. Limit excessive television viewing and the playing of video and other computer games.

3. **Read to your children everyday.**  
Haven't you heard this before? But, it is so important that it is worth repeating. Most of the learning that your children do in school involves reading. Read to your kids to teach them about reading, expand and enrich their vocabularies and broaden their experiences. Reading aloud exposes them to materials that would be difficult for them to read on their own. Have a special reading time in your home where everyone reads for fifteen minutes.
4. **Encourage them to read extensively.**  
As your child progresses through school, as much as seventy five percent of what they learn will come from the printed page. The more children read, the better their reading skills become. Make sure that there is a wide variety of interesting reading materials in your home to attract the children.
5. **Show children how to be organized.**  
Children who are organized find it much easier to succeed in school. One of the best ways to teach organizational skills is through examples. Show children how to use some of the organizational tools available – assignment pads, note books, calendars etc.
6. **Teach them effective study skills.**  
Good study skills are absolutely essential to get. Make sure your children know how to read their text books, prepare for tests, memorize facts, and use their time more efficiently. Surely, most of this will be done by the teachers, but it is very important that you reinforce this at home. Encourage your children to have a regular time for studying and provide a study place, free from distractions.
7. **Urge your children to listen and participate in class.**  
Listening in class is the easiest way for children to learn. Older children would be encouraged to take notes, which will help them to concentrate more on what is being said. Encourage your children to participate in class – ask questions, answer questions – it will greatly increase their interest in what they are learning.
8. **Help your children how to tackle homework.**  
Doing homework reinforces what your children learn in school. Show them how to do it as opposed to doing it for them. This will quickly teach them that the homework is their responsibility. Help them to know what should be done first and how to plan their time. Encourage them not to rush through the homework. Parents should check each child's homework everyday.

9. **Talk to your children about school**  
Your children spend hours in school everyday. A lot can happen during this time. Show them that you are genuinely interested in their day by asking about what they did and talking with them about the activities of the day. When problems occur, work with your kids to find solutions. These discussions must not be used as an opportunity for children to 'bring news and gossip'. Let these discussions be meaningful and appropriate to the needs of the child.
  
10. **Develop a good relationship with your children's teachers.**  
Good communication between home and school helps children to do well in school and makes it easier to address problems. Be sure to attend parent-teacher conferences and PTA meetings. Visit your teachers in class and look at the progress of your children in class. Volunteer to help your teachers. Also, please believe what your teachers tell you. They know and see your children in different ways from you.

**Do all that is RIGHT for your child.  
You owe it to him/her.**