

Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

- * Emphasize positive attitudes and values – honesty, fairness, respect for teachers, respect for the rights of others. Be sure you set a good example by demonstrating these values.
- * Have regular talk sessions where family members share their interests, problems and activities. Listen to your child's questions and ideas. Show respect for her thoughts and feelings.
- * Organize household schedules and responsibilities. Everyone should have at least one regular "chore" to finish on time.
- * Take time every day – right after school, at supper or before bedtime – to talk with your child about school.
- * Support your child's interests. If he likes music, for example, encourage him to join the school band, or go to the library and borrow a book on the subject.
- * Visit zoos, museums and historic sites. Attend concerts, plays and other events.
- * Talk with your child about the future. Help her understand that the purpose for schoolwork is to prepare her for life after school.
- * Subscribe to a children's magazine. Use it yourself to find ideas for educational games and rainy-day activities.
- * Help your child develop a personal library. Give books as presents. Teach him to take pride in his books.
- * Take pride in your child's schoolwork. Hang it on the refrigerator. Send samples to relatives. Keep schoolwork in a scrapbook. You and your child will enjoy seeing how she has progressed.

Ways to

Communicate with Your School

- * Join the PTA.
- * Get acquainted with the school principal and your child's teachers early in the school year.
- * Take part in school activities regularly. Show your interest and support by attending PTA meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school plays, book fairs, etc.
- * Volunteer to help with field trips, class parties, fund-raising events and other special activities at school.
- * Call teachers or school officials if you have questions about assignments, grades or school policies. It is better to ask questions than to be "in the dark."
- * Be sure to notify school when your child is absent. Make arrangements to pick up homework during long absences.
- * Notify the school in advance if you cannot attend regular meetings or parent-teacher conferences. If necessary, make special appointments to meet with teachers.
- * Don't wait until twelfth grade to start thinking about your child's goals and interests. Get acquainted with school counselors, and know what courses she should be taking to prepare for college or a career.
- * Avoid criticizing school officials in front of your child. Handle complaints directly with the appropriate school personnel.

Ways to Fulfill Your Basic Duties as a Parent

- * Establish clear rules and expectations for your child's behavior at home and at school.
- * Your child can't concentrate on learning if she's

hungry and tired. Don't let her stay up too late on school nights. Make sure she eats a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day.

- * Never send your child to school if he is ill.
- * Be sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date.
- * If your child is having difficulty in a particular area, ask teachers to suggest specific ways you can help at home.
- * Require your child to attend school. Don't let her miss school for unimportant reasons.
- * Know your child's strengths and weaknesses. Don't compare him to another child.
- * Take advantage of the pre-school screening programs most school districts offer. Early detection is vital if your child has vision, hearing or other problems that could interfere with learning.
- * Set priorities so your child knows homework is more important than playing or watching television. Schedule family activities to allow time for schoolwork.

what she is studying and lets you know when she is having difficulty.

- * Encourage your child to write. Help him write thank-you notes, shopping lists, activity schedules and stories.
- * Watch television programs together. Help your child recognize the difference between what is "real" and what is fantasy or "pretend".
- * Play games with your child. Ask her to read the rules and explain them to you in her own words.
- * Encourage young children to play with paper, pencils, crayons, chalk, markers and paints. These activities develop coordination and creativity.
- * Develop important math concepts with everyday activities, such as keeping a growth chart or counting knives and forks when setting the table.
- * Set an example by reading at home. Your child should see you reading books, magazines and newspapers. Read aloud frequently to your young child.
- * Continue to emphasize schoolwork as a priority for older children. Jobs, sports, clubs and other activities should not interfere with learning.

Ways to Encourage Academic Growth

- * Provide a quiet place at home for studying. Have a dictionary and other reference materials available.
- * ~~Expect your child to do his best work on~~ homework and school assignments. Don't settle for "okay".
- * Review your child's daily schoolwork and homework assignments. Ask her questions and praise her efforts. This allows you to keep in touch with

Encourage your child to learn.

You are a partner with the school in your child's education.



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