



What You Do Matters

Did you know that parents have a significant effect on their children's education? It's true. Good education isn't just about teachers and school—what you do as a parent really counts.

There have been hundreds of research studies on parents and school, and they all show the same thing: When parents get involved in their children's education, good things happen. Among them:

- Grades go up
- Test scores rise
- Behavior improves

Plus, children with involved parents are more likely to pass their classes, graduate, and further their education after high school. And when lots of parents get involved, it helps teachers and the school as a whole.

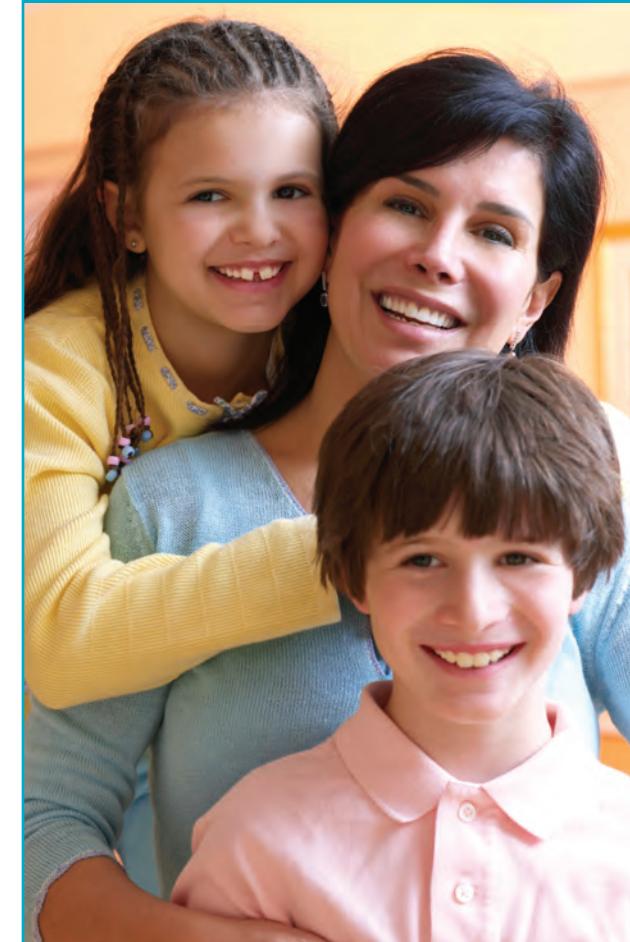
MORE IDEAS AND TIPS

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You Can Make a Difference

How to get involved in your child's education



Getting Started

Talking with your child about school is a simple but key first step. Find out about his likes and dislikes at school, what comes easy and what doesn't, things that make him uncomfortable or stressed. The more specific your questions, the more likely you are to get a real answer.

STUDENTS DO BEST WHEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS WORK TOGETHER AS PARTNERS.

Meeting and communicating with the teacher is important, too. Students do best when parents and teachers work together as partners. Let the teacher know about anything that may affect your child's performance: strengths and weaknesses, learning style, study habits, special interests, family issues, personality traits, or behavior concerns. The teacher is an expert when it comes to education, but no one knows more about your child than you.

Another simple thing you can do is to attend school events. That encourages your child to see school as an integral part of your family life, and that's an important connection.



Parent-Teacher Group

A great way to learn more about your school, get connected with parents, and get involved is to join the parent-teacher organization. Parent groups play an important role in building the kind of supportive school environment where teachers and students alike can do their best work. The parent group can be a terrific source of information about your school and community, too.

SCHOOL'S NAME _____

PARENT-TEACHER GROUP'S NAME _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____

CONTACT EMAIL _____

12 Ways To Help

No matter what your schedule, there are many ways that you can make a difference for your child and the school. Here are just a few suggestions.

1. Ask your child about school. Saying "Tell me something you learned today" shows that you're interested in what happens in the classroom.
2. Be available to help your child with homework, including answering questions and explaining concepts.
3. Join the parent-teacher group. Attend a meeting to find out what's happening at school and how you can get involved.
4. Prepare a presentation for your child's class about a hobby or your family's ethnic or religious traditions.
5. Volunteer in the lunchroom or at recess. This is a great way to get to know your children's schoolmates.
6. Serve as volunteer tech support in the school media lab.
7. Take photographs for the school yearbook or memory book.
8. Help plan school events such as dances, holiday productions, or special assemblies.
9. Work the concession stand at sporting events.
10. Offer to contribute to or produce the school newsletter.
11. Work with school administrators to write grant proposals or seek other funding sources.
12. Judge a competition such as a science fair or spelling bee.