

STAYING INVOLVED

Staying Involved in your Child's Education

Your child's education is a partnership consisting of your child, teachers, and parents. Many parents have a hectic work schedule and a busy social life, including the organization of their children's extra-curricular activities. To get the most out of your time with your child, and to keep involved in your child's education to the fullest, here are some ideas.

It is important to keep in constant contact with your child's school. The administration is always interested in talking with interested and involved parents. Parents with flexible work schedules can volunteer to help out in the classroom. It could also be beneficial to join any groups for parents that the school might have in place. Regardless of the amount of time you commit, any effort to establish a link with your child's school will be of great benefit.

One of the most important things you do each year is establish a friendly and cooperative relationship with your child's teachers. They nurture and develop your child's learning. They have a genuine interest in seeing your child progress over the year. Input and feedback from the parents is important to teachers. The parent-teacher interview is an appropriate time for cooperation to take place. Following the interview, try to keep in regular contact with the teacher. You might want to send him/her an occasional note, demonstrating that you have a genuine interest in your child's development.

Always listen to what your child tells you. Ask your child specific questions related to schoolwork. Do not stop at "How was your day?" Ask what he/she learned in math, to describe any science experiments that he/she conducted, or to read journal entries he/she has written. Help your child when he/she is having difficulty doing some homework assignment. Seek professional help if you notice a persistent problem in some subject area. Show your child how to organize his/her time with a planning agenda.

Above all else, show confidence and pride in your child! There is nothing like praise and encouragement from you, the parent, to help your child develop self-esteem!