

How parents can help

Check this list of things parents can do to help their children learn:

- Read to your child.
- Listen to your child read.
- Play games with your child.
- Help your child get a library card from the public library nearest you. Encourage your child to go to the library as often as possible.
- Go to the library with your child. Help him or her pick out interesting books to read.
- Find out about activities for children that take place at your library.
- Talk to your child about subjects that are interesting to him or her.
- Listen to your child.
- Set aside a special "reading time." Let your child know that you look forward to and enjoy your time together.
- Give your child his or her own place to keep books.
- Write notes to your child.
- Help your child write letters and notes.
- Encourage your child to keep a scrapbook about a subject that interests him or her: stamps, dogs, birds, trucks, etc.
- Limit your child's television watching—select certain shows to watch. Turn the television set on for the show and turn it off immediately after the show is over.
- Read and discuss your child's schoolwork.
- Provide materials such as crayons, art paper and paints for creative projects.
- Give your child a calendar so he or she can write down special events and mark off each day.
- Help your child make a telephone directory with the names and phone numbers of his or her friends.
- Ask your child to add a sentence or two to letters you write to far-away relatives. (Young children can dictate a sentence for you to write.)
- Give your child specific duties to perform on a regular basis at home.
- Let your child help you prepare dinner.
- Subscribe to a children's magazine (in the child's name).
- Bring books for your child to read in the car while he or she waits for you to run errands.
- Look up words in the dictionary with your child.
- Encourage your child to start a collection of rocks, stamps, etc.
- Encourage your child to show his or her schoolwork to your relatives and friends.
- When traveling, read road signs with your child. Discuss what they mean.
- Show your child how to use a yardstick, ruler and tape measure for measuring objects around the house.
- Provide counting experiences for your child.
- Show your child how to count change.
- Give your child a special place (box, dish pan, etc.) to keep items he or she must take to school each morning. (This ends last-minute searching for library books, papers, bike keys, etc., all of which can cause your child to be late for school.)
- Show your child how to tell time.



Supporting Successful Students

This list provides hints for helping your child be a successful student. Keeping it on your refrigerator would be a great reminder of how to help your child daily.

- ☺ See that your child gets a full night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast each day.
- ☺ Help your child arrive at school on time everyday, ready to learn with needed materials and books.
- ☺ Help your child nightly with homework assignments and see that he or she brings them to school.
- ☺ Ask your child about the school day. Listen closely and encourage sharing of thoughts and feelings.
- ☺ Use ideas in U.S. Department of Education website < <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/hyc.html> > to help your child in areas such as reading, writing, mathematics, test-taking, and responsibility.

Reading

- 📖 Read nightly with your child for at least 15 minutes. Take turns reading paragraphs or pages and then discuss what you read. Share your thoughts about the book and ask for his or her thoughts.
- 📖 Visit the local library to read and check out books together. Encourage and praise your child's attempts to read. Make sure your child sees family members reading on a regular basis.
- 📖 After watching a movie or television show or reading a story, discuss the main idea, events, and characters. Ask your child to summarize the story in a few sentences.
- 📖 Encourage your child to draw and write about books and to write down facts learned from reading nonfiction books. Ask your child why or how they chose what to draw or write.
- 📖 When cooking, let your child read the recipe and help you follow the directions.

Writing

- ✍ Play word games and puzzles from magazines and newspapers or games such as *Scrabble* and *Boggle*. Explain how you think when forming an answer or making a guess.
- ✍ Write notes back and forth to each other in lunchboxes, while waiting for appointments, or on a family bulletin board. Add riddles or secret messages to increase the fun factor.
- ✍ Help your child write lists such as shopping lists, lists of chores, or lists of the day's events.
- ✍ Encourage your child to keep a journal, especially for special events such as trips, parties, etc.
- ✍ Read your child's writing drafts and comment on the things you like about it such as descriptive writing, logical sequence, staying on topic, rich vocabulary, sentence variety, etc.

Mathematics

- \$ Play number games such as dominoes, number searches on bulletin boards, and mental math problems in the car. Ask your child how he or she formed an answer.
- \$ Help your child identify how math is used daily. Find numbers at home, in the newspaper, at stores, on television, or on billboards. Read the number together and discuss what it means.
- \$ Provide opportunities to measure at home with weight, temperature, length, and volume. Encourage estimating before measuring. Measuring volume while cooking also helps children understand fractions. Model/discuss problem solving such as how to measure 2 cups with a half cup measure.
- \$ Let your child help you tell time and count money as the situations arise.
- \$ Provide opportunities to count and sort objects, add to and take away from sets of objects, and to explore patterns in sets of objects or sets of numbers.