



**HELPING OUR
CHILDREN LEARN
AT HOME, IN
SCHOOL, AND IN
THE COMMUNITY**

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Center for Literacy

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When parents are interested in their children's education, and they help their children with their homework, they can help them succeed at school.

-How can I be involved in my children's writing?

AT HOME:

- Have a special place to keep pencils, pens, paper, glue, scissors, crayons, construction paper, etc. These materials are inexpensive and should be kept together in a box. They should always be available for easy access.
- Use materials in the box for different activities. For example, children can learn how to cut, color, write letters even before they start school. Do not wait for your children to start kindergarten to teach the skills that are used in schools. Children's drawings and writings at any age should be praised. Share your own interests and ideas with your children.
- Continue helping your children with writing and drawing even after they begin school. Do activities that are school related as well as some of your own. For example, you can teach your children about children's stories and songs from your own culture. You and your children can write stories and draw pictures about your family.
- Sit with your children as often as you can. Some parents do cultural or school activities with their children every day and others do activities a few days a week. The more you work with them, the more they learn.

- Try to do these activities with your children at the same time every day. This way they will become accustomed to learning with you and look forward to this time together. Once this becomes a habit, it is easier to work together.

- Decide with your children when is the best time to get together. Try to do it when the children are not tired or sleepy.

AT THE LIBRARY:

- Take the children to the library. Almost all towns in this country have a library. There you can find many good books to read. You can borrow these books for a period of time. These books are free. Ask the librarian how to borrow the books to take home. Using library books will help your children read and write more often.

- Ask the librarian about how to choose books in the library. They can recommend the right books for your children's ages.

- Encourage your children to select their own books. This way, books will be more interesting and fun for them.

- Ask the librarian about special events, for example, story hours, music hours or activities. Look for schedules announcing these activities.

- Let your children play with tapes, toys, puzzles and computers while you are at the library. You can check-out some of those things.

- Use the libraries for information about schools, health services and community services, etc.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Make your children aware of signs in the streets. Teach them the names of the streets, names of the stores and names of objects in the stores.

- Talk to your children about interesting things in the community. Raise their curiosity about the environment around them. Encourage your children to ask questions about anything or anybody. Listen to them without making fun of their feelings or opinions. Ask questions yourself. Listen to them when they show enthusiasm about somebody or something. Teachers also do this at school.