

PARENTS AND SCHOOLS: WORKING TOGETHER

Center for Literacy
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Parents and teachers need to work toward a common goal and share responsibilities in order for children to do well in school. Ideally, children will view their parents as their first teachers. When they see that both school and parents are involved in their education, they become motivated to do better in school. Parents can become aware of their role in their children's learning and how they can work with the school.

- Show the school how it can better serve the needs of your children. Communicate to the principal and to the teachers about what you like best and least about the school.
- Feel comfortable in the school, and understand that it also belongs to you. Let the teachers and principal know the ways in which they can make parents feel more at ease when participating in school activities. Visit your child's classroom or teacher often.
- Get involved in school communication and activities. Become involved with activities that honor a student's progress or class performance. Also, learn about school rules and policies. Become aware of student discipline and behavior problems in the school. For example, find out what happens when a student does not attend school, is late, or misbehaves.
- Become an active participant in school. For example, volunteer as a teacher helper or lunch monitor. Become a parent leader or representative in the local school council or PTA, or Bilingual Council. Become a community representative.

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COMMUNICATION

When parents and teachers work together, children will do better in school.

- What kinds of activities can I be involved in throughout the year?

- Attend parent-teacher conferences that your children's teachers request.
- You can request a meeting with your children's teachers at any time you believe is necessary.
- Read and respond to letters that the school sends you about your children's progress, or about school information.
- Attend open houses because you can learn more about school life, your children's classrooms, and the teachers.
- Attend or participate in special school events like community meetings or cultural programs.
- Make appointments with your children's teachers or principal if needed. You can do this through a phone call, or notes that your children bring to school. Ask to discuss their progress or any school-related issue.
- Help the school raise money for class trips, or other projects. Help organize, sell, or chaperone these activities.
- Find out about and participate in family-related workshops or programs that will help you find ways to become more involved in your children's education.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a great opportunity to be involved in your children's education.

- How do I learn about the school when I help my children with their homework?

- Interact in your children's learning by checking up on how and when they do their homework.
- Spend some special time with your children, and look at the homework they are doing in math, English, science, or social studies.
- Ask your children's teachers about their progress in school, and find out what they still need to learn so that you can participate more actively in their learning.
- Notify your children's teachers about whether your children are doing their homework, and if they are having any problems with it. This will alert the teacher to address any problems in the classroom.
- Respond to any teacher request regarding your children's homework, and their progress in math, English, science, or other subjects.
- Involve other family members or the neighborhood to help your children with their homework when you are not available.
- Request the teacher or a teacher's aide to assist in your children's homework as needed outside of class time

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