

Work With Your School For Academic Success



Research consistently shows that children whose parents are involved with their school are more likely to do well academically. Why? Because their parents tell them that they value education and educators—and they put their words into action by working with the school.

To send this message to your child:

- **Attend back-to-school night**, conferences and other events at your child's school.
- **Read all the material** sent home with your child. And be sure to sign and return forms.
- **Monitor homework.** Expect your child to do his best and to submit assignments on time.
- **Offer to help.** Even if you can't volunteer at school, you may be able to help from home. An hour of your time can make a difference.



- **Support school rules.** Read the school handbook. Know the policies for attendance, behavior and homework.
- **Comment positively** about teachers and school policies. If you have a concern, let your child's teacher know.

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Turn Mistakes Into Valuable Lessons



Your child—like the rest of us—makes mistakes. But with your help, he can use his mistakes to learn and grow. Teach your child that every mistake is also an opportunity in disguise. To help him handle the bumps along life's road:

- **Praise his effort.** Remind your child that he really tried. Say you're proud of him for giving it his best shot.
- **Find ways he can improve.** Ask him to think about how he ran into trouble. Did he ignore the directions? Did he work too fast?
- **Focus on success.** Help your child see all the things he does right. Remind him that skills he found difficult in the past are easy for him now.
- **Emphasize learning.** Of course you want your child to get good grades, but talk with him



about what he is *learning*, not about what grade he gets.

- **Get help.** If your child works hard but still has problems, talk with his teacher. Together you can get your child on track and on the road to success!

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Teach the Importance Of Respect

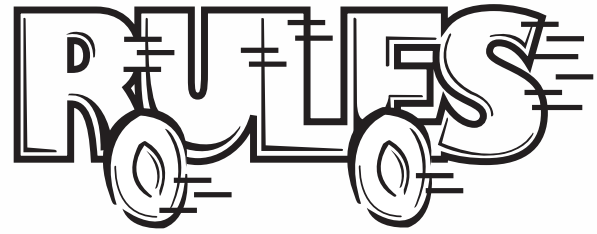


You've often heard it said that you are your child's first and most important teacher. Research shows that when you reinforce learning at home, your child is more likely to succeed in school.

But your child needs to learn more than how to read, write and solve math problems. Don't forget to teach her respect for teachers, school staff, fellow students—and school rules!

To teach your child respect:

- **Talk positively about teachers** and school staff. Expect the same from your child. If you or your child has a problem with someone at school, make an appointment to talk about it.
- **Expect your child to follow school rules.** Talk about school guidelines for appropriate behavior. Support the school if your child misbehaves.



- **Expect your child to show respect** for school property and the belongings of others. Talk to her about putting trash in containers, keeping restrooms tidy and other ways to maintain a clean and safe school environment.

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Teach the Importance Of Respect

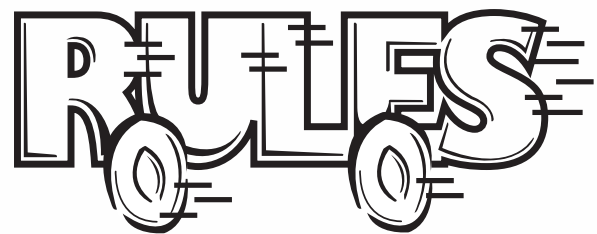


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Teach Responsibility One Day at a Time

GUIDING
IDEAS

The three R's are basic to school success, but teachers say another R is especially important: Responsibility. Students who learn responsibility at home are more likely to turn in assignments on time, listen to and respect teachers, cooperate with other students and follow school rules. These are all traits of students who succeed in school.

To teach your child responsibility:

- **Assign age-appropriate chores** at home. Post a calendar where your child can list (and check off) daily responsibilities.
- **Teach your child daily responsibility** for homework. Expect her to follow a regular routine. If she struggles with an assignment, *don't do it for her*. Send a note telling the teacher where she ran into trouble. Ask how you can support classwork at home.



- **Expect your child to be responsible** for submitting assignments on time. If she consistently forgets her homework papers, don't rush to the school with the work. Your child may get a lower grade, but she will be more responsible next time!
- **Praise your child** when she demonstrates responsible behavior.

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Tardies & Absences Can Lead To Academic Problems



The first rule for doing well in school is a simple one: Your child needs to *be* there. Learning builds day by day. Missing a day of school means missing a day of learning. "Catching up" can be an overwhelming task.



Tardies are just as serious. It is your child's responsibility to arrive at school on time and prepared every day. Missing the bus is no excuse. Arriving late to class affects not only your child, but also disrupts classmates' learning.

What's the best way to eliminate tardies? Establish a routine—and stick to it! To help your child arrive at school on time and ready to learn:

- Start mornings the night before.
- Have her lay out her school clothes and help you prepare her lunch.

- Make sure your child has her backpack ready to go by the front door—with completed homework, library books, signed papers, etc.
- Enforce a regular bedtime. Consider an earlier bedtime if your child has trouble getting up.
- Give your child her own alarm clock—and the responsibility for getting to school on time.

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Bullying is *Not* Part of 'Growing Up'



Parents often think bullying is just a part of “growing up.” “Kids will be kids, after all.” Not so! Bullying should be taken *very* seriously. Some bullied children even end up not wanting to go to school. Teach your child to:

- Steer clear of kids with bullying behavior.
- Be assertive, not violent.
- Walk away if the situation is dangerous.
- Tell an adult. It’s important to let the teacher or principal know what’s going on.

Bullying has also moved from the schoolyard and the classroom to computers and cell phones where “cyberbullies” can send or post cruel messages and pictures—often anonymously. Hurt and humiliated, children often don’t tell their parents for fear of losing computer and phone privileges.



To deal with cyberbullies:

- Know what your child is doing online.
- Keep the computer in a central location.
- Save any messages from a cyberbully.
- Tell your child never, ever to respond!
- Contact the school or the police if your child is threatened.

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