

Schools have become more advanced in their teaching practices and expect more from their students than ever before. In order to help your child succeed in school, it's important to understand what it is they are learning and what kind of learning style they possess. A little time and guidance can make the world of difference in helping your child do their best in school.

1. **Ask your child what they learned in school each day.** Sometimes this is a difficult task because many children will say "nothing" or "not much". In order to dig deeper, try asking specific questions like..."how was Science today? Did you learn any new concepts?" This will prompt your child to explain their subjects. It will also show them that you have an interest in what they are learning. This is important for helping them value school as well.
2. **Prompt to do homework before play.** Once children sit down to play games or other hobbies, their interest in school is out the window. Catch them when they are fresh from learning and still have a little energy for it. They may complain a bit, but getting them to do homework later will be harder because they will be into other things and have schoolwork out of their minds. Sit and do homework with them as well. This helps children to feel more focused because you are also doing the same thing they are.
3. **Have homework items readily available to work with.** Have a notebook handy for writing spelling words or math problems, and have writing supplies such as pencils and erasers on hand to prepare children for work. This way, there will be no interruptions to get supplies or a way for your child to procrastinate in doing homework. It will also keep the transition from school to homework flowing smoothly so that children understand they must do their work before play.
4. **Keep contact with your child's teacher to find out how he is doing in the classroom.** Discuss any issues you may have by observing learning at home and allow your child to communicate any troubles they may be having in school. It's important to keep an open mind when listening to your child's teacher's comments. No parent wants to hear that their child has been misbehaving or has trouble learning. But listening with an open mind can help your child overcome obstacles they may have and help them to be a better student.
5. **Last, but not least, praise your child for their accomplishments, but don't dwell on their limitations.** If they received all A's and B's and a couple of C's, tell them how proud you are of the higher grades and that you two together can work on the lower ones. Let them know that you understand school can be tough and tiring and that you are there to help. You can explain that you are disappointed in lower grades, but also support by telling them you know they can bring them up with a little help. When a child senses that a parent can understand, it helps them to open up about things that may be troubling at school and can later lead to a very important open communication during teenage and adult years.