



Resource 6

# Ways to Communicate the Importance of Education to Children

The best thing you can do to help your child succeed is to stay interested in his or her education and share the joy of learning, as well as model good habits in reading and writing. Students actually spend much more time at home than they do in the classroom. How they spend their time outside school affects their academic success.

Which of these things can you do to help your child succeed?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Let your child know that education matters.</b> Work with your child every day so that he or she knows that education is a top priority. Ask specific questions, such as, “How did your math test go?” or “Was your science experiment fun?” Find out about the specific activities carried out in the classroom to know what questions to ask.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Learn as much as you can about your child’s school.</b> Get to know your child’s teachers and let them know you want to support your child’s education. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Join a parent-teacher organization at the school. Visit the classroom, or even better, volunteer to do something for the school. If it is difficult for you to get to the school, ask about how you can help at home or come up with ideas of your own.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Extend your child’s learning.</b> Every waking moment is an opportunity to learn. Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television and playing video games. Make sure your child is reading and writing and that he or she sees you modeling reading and writing. Take your child to libraries, museums, zoos, outdoor sites, businesses and other places that can help him or her learn.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Be sure your child is prepared for school daily.</b> Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and a healthy meal before heading out the door. Check with your child and his/her teacher to make sure that homework is completed. Help your child practice new concepts and facts, like multiplication tables and spelling new words.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Encourage your child and talk about role models in your community.</b> Point out the people who have a college degree or a professional career and how they contribute to your local community. Talk about career choices and how doing well in school is connected to having choices in life. Reinforce the importance of valuing your culture, heritage and language.</p>

*Your child’s academic success depends on your active participation.*