



Your Child's Education - Be A Partner!



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HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL?

Helping your child reach his or her full potential at school begins by being actively involved in your child's learning - at home, in the school and in the community. By being involved you encourage good learning habits and support your child in making choices about his or her future.

WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

Learning starts in the home. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's life and when it comes to formal education, you play a key role in student success. One of the best ways to ensure student success at school is to READ, in any language and at any age. You can also help by talking to your child about his or her day, helping to create homework routines and by ensuring that your child is prepared for school each day. Being well rested, properly dressed and having nutritious food allows your student to be ready for their busy day.

Getting involved can be challenging and difficult. Work and family responsibilities often conflict with school hours. Language, transportation, cultural and financial issues can also be barriers but by communicating with your school's principal and your child's teacher everyone can find a level of involvement that can work!

OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME

At home, if you have...

A few minutes:

- Help your child develop routines to be ready each day for school.
- Ensure your child starts the day with a nutritious breakfast.
- Ask your child each day, what happened in the classroom as well as on the playground.
- Connect with your school principal and your child's teachers - in person, by telephone or even email.
- Visit your school's website for an update on recent and upcoming activities.
- Read your school and classroom newsletters.
- Read with or to your child everyday - in any language.
- Read your child's planner and check for important notes.

A few hours:

- Help your child with homework by providing a quiet place, by answering general questions and by asking your child to explain what he or she is learning.
- Talk to your child about current affairs and encourage him or her to read local newspapers and magazines.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom or other areas of the school.

A day:

- Clean out your cupboards and donate books or toys to the school.
- Visit a museum or attend a concert; see a live play.
- Encourage active learning through outdoor play and board games.
- Build something or cook a meal together.

A few days or evenings:

- Find out if you can volunteer to prepare classroom materials or other items for special school events.
- Offer to translate documents.
- Distribute translated communications in your cultural community.
- Offer to work with your school and school council to complete grant applications.

Once a month:

- Find out if your school, school council and or child's classroom teacher has a monthly calendar or events. Post and review this.

A season:

- Support your child's interest in after school activities, either in the school or outside of the school. There are many music, sport, art and other special interest programs.



OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL



In your child's school, if you have...

A few minutes:

- Arrange a time with your child's teacher to visit the classroom and learn more about your child's successes and challenges.
- Say hello to the school staff.
- Read the bulletin boards at your school or messages posted on the school sign.
- Find out where parent resources are kept at your school; use them.

A few hours:

- Attend your school's Meet the Teacher Night.
- Attend Parent- Teacher Interviews to discuss your child's progress and help set goals.
- Attend school assemblies, school council meetings and special events.
- Get to know other parents at the school.

A day:

- Find out how you can volunteer in the school - reading to students, participating in field trips, special events, holiday celebrations, helping with crafts, library work.
- Find out if you can volunteer to be a guest speaker or a parent tutor/mentor.

A few days or evenings:

- Attend school special events, parent workshops and other activities being held in the school.
- Volunteer to organize a school social event or a fundraiser.
- Offer to translate at school council meetings to encourage parents in your cultural community to participate.
- Find out if you can work with your school and school council to develop and prepare a welcome package for new families.
- Offer to update the school council bulletin board or their website.

Once a month:

- Attend a school council meeting.
- Volunteer to participate in the school council.
- Plan a monthly cultural celebration.

A season:

- Find out if you can volunteer to coach a team or run a club at the school.
- Find out if you can volunteer to run a lunch club to teach or share a special skill.



OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

In the community, if you have...

A few minutes:

- Walk with your child through your community to school.
- If available, visit your neighbourhood association's office or website.
- Find out what is happening in your neighbourhood - read your community newspaper.

A few hours:

- Find out if you can volunteer to distribute school newsletters and flyers in your school's neighbourhood.
- Volunteer to contact local businesses or organizations to support activities in your school; arrange for guest speakers.
- Take the kids to your local library.
- Attend a community sports game or support your local theatre.

A day:

- In consultation with your school and school council, distribute invitations for special events to other schools and the community.
- Make connections in your community - find opportunities for community members and the school to work together.
- Encourage your child to attend or Volunteer at community events.

A few days or evenings:

- Work with a community organization to host a special event.

Once a month:

- Offer to provide transportation for other parents to get to meetings.
- Organize a car pool.
- Offer to write articles about your school's activities for the school newsletter or even the local paper.

A season:

- Coach a local team or club.
- Participate in keeping your school's yard safe and green: planting trees, gardening, maintaining play equipment, building and maintaining neighbourhood ice rinks.



**As a parent, you can make a difference
in how your child learns.**

By getting involved in your child's education, you will build important relationships with the people and resources in your community. More importantly, you will inspire your child to learn and build the confidence and self-esteem that he or she needs to be successful. There are so many ways that you can participate. Find the ways that work for you.



Parent Involvement Committee

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