How can I be involved with my child’s school?

While home involvement is most important, your involvement with the school is also critical to your child’s success. How can you get more involved with your child’s school life? There are a number of ways:

✓ Join the parent-teacher association
✓ Attend open houses and back-to-school nights
✓ Read school newsletters
✓ Participate in after-school events
✓ Get to know your child’s teachers
✓ Support your child in school activities
✓ Volunteer to assist with school functions and extracurricular activities

YOU are the biggest influence on your child’s life. . . use that influence to put your child on the pathway to success!

Visit your child’s school frequently. Call and make an appointment to talk to your child’s counselors and teachers. By visiting the school, you can discover:

✓ How your child is doing on classwork
✓ How your child interacts with others
✓ If the teacher is having disciplinary problems with your child
✓ What activities you can do at home to help your child in school

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Parental involvement begins at home. By creating a positive home environment and encouraging communication, you are stimulating the learning process.

Some simple ways to promote learning are:

1. **Encourage Reading and Writing**
   Studies show that children who read at home perform better in school. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers in your home. Help your child get a library card. Discuss what your child reads. Read to your child. Encourage your child to write notes to friends and relatives. Have your child keep a journal.

2. **Make School a Priority**
   The first step to your child’s school success is for you to be supportive of school and education. If school is not important to you, it will not be important to your child. You can show your child that school is important by:
   - Speaking positively about your child’s teachers and counselors
   - Talking to your child about the benefits of education
   - Making sure your child goes to school on time, every day
   - Attending school functions, including parent-teacher conferences and open houses
   - Answering phone calls and notes from your child’s teachers

Research shows that parental support is more important to school success than a student’s IQ, economic status or school setting. Parents influence everything from their child’s reading level to test scores. The benefits of parental involvement include:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better behavior and more positive attitudes
- Higher graduation rates
- Better attendance at school
- More homework completed
- Fewer placements in special education
- Greater enrollment in postsecondary education

Why should you be involved with your child’s education?

What are the best ways to be involved?

What can I do at home to help my child succeed?

Nearly 78% of junior high students and 48% of high school students want their parents to talk to them more about school.