



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Support Learning at Home

Help Your Child Succeed in School

Children learn during school hours and continue to learn for as long as they are awake, wherever they happen to be. Support your child's job as a student at home and in the community and let your child know that you value learning.

Make Learning a Family Priority

- Provide a quiet atmosphere for homework. Schedule a daily "homework time" that's not too close to bedtime. Make sure the TV is turned off.
- Understand the methods and terminology your child's teacher uses. Try to use the same approach when you help with homework. If you're not sure, contact the teacher.
- Let your child find the solution for problems, if at all possible. Give guidance, not answers.



- Reward hard work on homework and at school with an outing, a special dinner, a book or other treat.
 - Ask your child questions as you read together: Can you tell me what happened in your own words? Why did the character do that? What will happen next?
 - If your child is struggling, don't wait to ask the teacher for extra help or to find a tutor. Do it before the child falls far behind.
- Attend classes that interest you and let your child know you value learning.
 - Read every day, with your child, by yourself, or as a family activity.

Create a Home Environment that Supports Learning

- Be very selective about television watching and video game playing. Pay attention to the programs and games and the total time your child spends with each.
- Send your child to school on time, rested, well fed and appropriately dressed.
- Encourage your child to talk about feelings, accomplishments and problems. Listen actively, reflecting back what your child tells you.
- Read books or compare notes with other parents to understand the abilities and behavior of a child the age of yours.
- Challenge your child to do well at school. Make your expectations high but reasonable.
- Let mistakes be OK as long as the child learns from the experience.
- Model honesty, and teach your child right from wrong at an early age.
- Visit the library, museums and educational and cultural events. Find ways to involve your child in music, sports, a new language or other activity.
- Talk directly to your child about your values, expectations, and about drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



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