

Tips for parents

Setting the foundation for student achievement



After school learning

Learning doesn't end when the final school bell rings. What happens outside the classroom affects a child's success in school. Children can spend after-school hours doing activities that can enhance learning and creativity. With a parent's help, any child can build vocabulary, improve thought processes and reinforce facts learned at school.

Here are some suggestions for what children can do, with parents or on their own, during those hours:

- Create a diary, poster or scrapbook about their lives and their dreams for the future.
- Read a book, magazine or newspaper, and discuss it later with parents, or read to parents while they fix dinner.
- Begin their homework and be prepared to share or review it later with their parents. Be sure your child has a quiet, well-lit study area that is free of distractions.
- Complete a list of chores appropriate to their age.
- Develop a hobby. Parents can help by supplying necessary materials.
- Visit interesting places with parents after school and on the weekends, such as museums, zoos, libraries, historical sites and parks.
- Participate in projects with other children. Such activities improve children's social skills and teach them to cooperate.
- Play games, especially those with educational value, such as number games, guessing games and word games.

After-school jobs

When older children work after school, it's important for parents to ensure that the job does not interfere with school work. The following are tips for making school a top priority:

- Establish rules for work before your child accepts the job.
- Help your child develop a schedule that focuses on school.
- Limit the hours your child may work based on grades, sufficient rest and recreation.
- Continue to discuss and monitor your child's progress in school. Be sure to discuss consequences ahead of time for declining grades.
- Encourage your child to participate in extracurricular activities at school or in the community.
- Talk to your child about the stress of work and school. Also, maintain open communication with your child's teachers, counselors and principal.
- Get to know your child's employer.



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