

How Can I Help My Child Do Well In School?

Inside every average student or poor student is a hard worker yearning to come out and shine. Some of these ideas may help to unlock your child's potential.

Scoring:

2 points if the statement is almost always true

1 point if it is sometimes true

0 points if it is rarely or never true

1. Everyone in our family has a household responsibility (at least one chore that must be done on time). _____
2. We have regular times for members of the family to eat, sleep, exercise, work, and study. We encourage, discuss and practice good nutrition. _____
3. Schoolwork, particularly reading, comes before play, TV, or even other work. _____
4. I praise my child for good schoolwork, sometimes in front of other people. _____
5. My child has a quiet place to study, a desk or table at which to work, and books, including a dictionary or other reference materials. _____
6. Members of our family talk regularly about hobbies, games, news, the books we're reading, movies, TV programs we've seen and daily events. _____
7. The family visits museums, libraries, zoos, historical sites and other places of interest. _____
8. I encourage good speech habits, helping my child to use the correct words and phrases, and to learn new ones. _____
9. Our family plays games which use mathematical concepts and skills and discuss our strategies with each other (Monopoly, UNO, Jenga, etc.). _____
10. I know my child's current teacher(s), what my child is doing in school, and which learning materials are being used. _____

11. I expect quality work and good grades. I know my child's strengths and give encouragement and special help when needed. _____

12. I talk to my child about the future – activities, plans for high school and college, and about aiming for a high level of education and/or vocation. _____

• Ten points or more means your home ranks on the top one-fourth in encouraging learning.

• Six points or less means your home is in the bottom one-fourth.

• Between six and ten points means your home is average in supporting learning.

Based upon *Back To School*, a booklet provided by the Elk Grove Unified School District and prepared by Faculty at University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Edited by Thomas L. Williams, Ed.D., California State University, Sacramento.

Family School Partnership Act

Effective January 1, 1995, the California Labor Code §230.8 was amended with the passage AB 2590 known as the Family School Partnership Act.

Through this bill, the legislature declares that, "It is crucial for parents to be involved in their children's education, both in the school and in the home." The Family School Partnership Act amends §230.8 of the California Labor Code to prohibit an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee who is a parent or guardian of a child in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for taking off 40 hours each school year, not exceeding 8 hours in any calendar month of the school year, to participate in activities of the school of any child.

Remaining unchanged are provisions which: 1) require reasonable advance notice to the employer, 2) specify that the employee is required to utilize existing vacation, personal leave, or compensatory time off for this purpose unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement; 3) require the employee to provide documentation from the school if requested by the employer.
