

Nine practical points for Parents

Read to children at an early age. By providing quality reading materials in the home and encouraging regular library visits, you will establish that reading is fun and also essential, not only in the classroom but to life in general. Be a good role model and read more yourself!

Arrange for the sharing of duties in the home and see to it that such duties are performed. Being responsible for chores encourages self-discipline and having a regular job makes your child feel needed and a part of the family—important contributions to positive self-esteem.

Show by example that a consideration for others and a commitment to family and community are vital to individual growth and self-satisfaction.

Speak well of education and praise its importance.

Help your child with homework at the end of a school day by providing a place to study and a quiet atmosphere. Rejoice in your child's successes yet be alert to recognize personal social problems that may affect the school experience.

Carefully watch the cultural influences in the home, including the viewing of television. Children can be shown how to discriminate between the good and the gaudy and cheap. A good way to teach this is to watch television with your children. Discuss the ideas and situations which are presented from a realistic point of view.

Take an active part in ongoing communication with the teacher and the school. Keep abreast of your child's progress in school.

Share at least one meal per day together as a family. Discuss homework, ideas, happenings from your day.

Cultivate and encourage a sense of humor. The ability to laugh at oneself indicates a sense of maturity.