

Classroom Connections

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What Can You Do to Support Your Child's Education at Home?

Here are some conversation starters that will help you to stay involved in your student's life:

- "Let's see what you brought home."
 - Look at completed work to find out how well your child is doing, as well as what he or she is learning.
- "Show me what you have for homework."
 - Homework is important, and you can help your child with the directions and make sure it's completed.
- "Tell me about a book that you enjoyed today."
 - This helps to encourage reading, as well as help to give you an idea of what your child likes to read.
- "Tell me something that you learned that you'd like to know more about."
 - See what your child's interests are, and use that as a jumping-off point for activities that you can share.

SHORT NOTES

- Being in school **every day** means that your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours.
- **Did you Know?**
 - Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior.
- **Celebrate progress!**
 - Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things he/she has accomplished. Let your child cover a box with construction paper and label it, "I did it!" Then, they can write each success on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If he/she is having a day where they feel discouraged, have them read the slips in the box!

WHAT DOES LOOK LIKE?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he/she speaks and acts respectfully.

Try these tips for helping children learn about respect:

- **Respectful replies**
 - Think about something that you and your child disagree on, and then model having a respectful discussion about it. Brainstorm situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.
- **Everyday acts**
 - When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Ask him/her to think of other respectful things that neighbors can do.

After-School Questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your kiddo's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?"

