

Succeed in School

Promote your child's achievement

Parents are the biggest influence in a child's life. There's no question about that. And research shows 10 important things that parents can do at home to make sure that their child achieves. To promote your child's achievement:

- 1. Share important information about your child with the school.** You are the expert on your child's likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses. You are the one who knows whether a move or a new baby may affect your child's schoolwork.
- 2. Set high, but realistic, expectations for your child's achievement.** Talk about how it's more important for your child to *do his best* than *be the best*.
- 3. Express confidence in your child's ability.** If you believe in your child, she will learn to believe in herself as well.
- 4. Encourage self-discipline and responsibility for learning.** High achievers know that being self-motivated is the only way to succeed.
- 5. Let your child do his own work and solve his own problems.** Be there to support your child and give advice—but remember that letting your child work on his own is the only way to show that you think he's capable of success.
- 6. Be involved in your child's education at home *and* at school.** Your regular involvement tells your child that education is important to you.
- 7. Make your home a stimulating learning environment.** You don't have to go out and buy expensive educational toys. Use items and tasks around your home to make your child think. And talk to your child about how you're using in your daily life what she is learning at school.
- 8. Spend as much time with your child as possible.** Have dinner together at least once a week. Read together. Ask your child about school. Go for a walk together. Schedule an hour for one-on-one time with your child.
- 9. Be sure Dad is involved in your child's education as well as Mom** from preschool to high school, if possible. Being involved in your child's education shouldn't be a job for just Mom or just Dad. Both parents need to take an active interest in meeting your child's teachers, reviewing his report card, asking what he's learning in school and volunteering.
- 10. Insist that your child get as much education as possible.** Don't simply let her decide how much is enough. Make sure your child knows how important it is for her to graduate from high school. Talk about how your own education has helped you—or why you wish you had gotten more education.

