

# 10 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WHEN YOU'RE SHORT ON TIME

Parents may think involvement in their child's education has to be time consuming, but it doesn't. Encourage a reluctant parent to commit to just one activity each week.

1. **Read a story to your child's class.** Ask the teacher if you should bring your own book or if the teacher will provide one. Read with enthusiasm. After the story, ask students questions about the story.
2. **Help out during center time.** This is when children rotate through several different activities. When a volunteer staffs one of the centers, the teacher is free to work with a small group of children without interruption.
3. **Help your teacher with a hands-on activity.** Teachers often need help with science experiments and other hands-on lessons or crafts.
4. **Work a stop at the library into your hectic after-school schedule.** Let your child select a few books. Promise to read them with your child.
5. **Read one chapter of a book to your child.** If time permits, have your child read the next chapter to you. A children's librarian can help you make a good choice based on your child's interests and reading level.
6. **Play a board game as a family.** Monopoly, Clue, Sorry, Candyland, Scrabble, Chutes & Ladders. There are countless board games that offer great opportunities for learning while laughing and chatting about what's going on at school.
7. **Use flashcards to help your child learn math facts or sight words.** You can also make flashcards to help an older child study for a test in science, social studies or language arts.
8. **Conduct a simple science experiment at home.** Find easy experiments to help your child connect with what is going on in school. Or just show your child that science can be fun.
9. **Help your child write a letter to a family member or friend.** If your child is just learning to write, offer to let the child dictate the letter while you write it. Then ask your child to read it out loud before mailing.
10. **Play catch with your child while calling out spelling words or multiplication tables.** When children are physically active, their brains are active too.