



YOUR ROLE MATTERS: 6 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

You are an important partner in your child's education. These six roles offer simple ways to support learning at home and partner with your child's school.

Learn a role. → Try an action. → Ask a question.

*Karen L. Mapp, K. L. and Eyal Bergman. (2019). Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



Know Grade Level Expectations

Develop a clear picture of the skills and knowledge your child should have at their grade level so you can **monitor** their progress.

Monitor



Understand What Your Child is Learning

Know the subjects, topics, and skills your child is working on so you can **model** curiosity and a love of learning through conversations at home.

Model



Collaborate with Educators to Set Goals

Partner with educators to **co-create** learning goals and experiences that reflect your child's needs and strengths.

Co-Create



Reinforce Learning at Home

Ask educators for tools and strategies so you can **support** your child at home and reinforce what they're learning in class.

Support



Speak Up for Your Child

Partner with educators to **advocate** for your child's needs by sharing observations and asking questions to ensure they have what they need to thrive.

Advocate



Celebrate Achievement and Growth

Work with educators to **encourage** growth by celebrating effort, progress and achievements.

Encourage



MONITOR

MONITOR

means you know what your child should know and be able to do.



MODEL

Take Action!

- ☒ Look over assignments together. Celebrate what's going well and talk about where they can improve.
- ☒ Talk with teachers regularly to ask about strengths, challenges, and next steps.
- ☒ Before conferences, ask your child's teacher for any reading and math test results and share what you'd like to focus on.
- ☒ Stay on top of your child's progress by checking test results, reviewing online grades, and talking with teachers.



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ How is my child performing in relation to the expectations for their grade in this subject? Are they on track, ahead, or in need of extra support?
- ☐ What work samples can you share that highlight my child's strengths and the areas where they can keep improving?
- ☐ What major assignments or learning activities are ahead that I should be aware of?



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE



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MODEL



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SUPPORT



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means you lead by example.

Take Action!

- ☒ Communicate high expectations by telling your middle schooler you believe in their potential. Clear expectations build confidence, motivate effort, and help them stay focused through this important transition.
- ☒ Model learning for your middle schooler by reading, sharing ideas, and using math in everyday life—like budgeting or cooking.
- ☒ Model reflection by talking about what worked, what didn't, and how to improve next time.
- ☒ Show excitement for learning new things, even when it's outside your comfort zone.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What's the most effective way for me to check in with you about how my child is doing?
- ☐ Which skills or habits should my child focus on now to be ready for high school?
- ☐ What steps can I take at home to support my child in feeling prepared and confident about moving into high school?



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SUPPORT



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means you show up as a true partner to help solve problems, make decisions, and share ideas.

Take Action!

- ✓ Make sure all caregivers get school updates. If only one person is receiving information, ask the teacher to include everyone so you can work together to support your child's learning.
- ✓ Share insights about your child, such as learning styles, interests, and challenges, to help teachers tailor instruction.
- ✓ Collaborate on goal-setting for academics, projects, or skill-building, and review progress together.
- ✓ Discuss post-middle school pathways (high school courses, programs, or extracurriculars) and partner with staff to align choices with your child's goals

Ask Your Child's School Team

- What kinds of questions could I ask my child to get them thinking more deeply about what they've been learning in class?
- Can you give me an overview of the key lessons or themes my child is working on this quarter so I can support their learning at home?
- How does the process of selecting high school courses or programs work, and at what point should we get started?



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SUPPORT



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SUPPORT

means your child has the time, space and help at home to build their reading & math skills.

Take Action!

- ☒ Talk with your child about assignments and homework to help them take ownership of their learning and stay engaged.
- ☒ Build independence. Let your child try solving problems on their own and explain their thinking.
- ☒ Support learning by connecting current events to your child's life, helping them stay engaged and share their views.
- ☒ Create a study space and routine. A quiet, well-lit area with supplies like notebooks, pencils, and technology helps your child focus and get homework done.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What are some helpful strategies I can use at home to reinforce or strengthen what my child is working on in school?
- ☐ What particular courses, programs, or focus areas should my child be taking to prepare for high school?
- ☐ What common challenges do students face when selecting and transitioning to high school, and how can we prepare for them?



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means you ensure your child has the necessary support, resources, and opportunities to access their full education.

Take Action!

- ☒ Speak up for your child. Share your child's strengths, interests, and challenges with teachers to help ensure they get the support and opportunities they need.
- ☒ Ask about opportunities for your child in advanced classes, extracurriculars, and enrichment programs in reading and math.
- ☒ Explore extra support. Check with your child's school about tutoring, literacy or STEM programs, or evaluations that can help strengthen reading and math skills.
- ☒ Get involved: Team up with other caregivers to support classroom resources that boost reading and math, such as books, STEM activities, technology, or hands-on materials.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ How can we identify if my child would benefit from additional evaluations or assessments?
- ☐ How can I stay informed about my child's progress and upcoming opportunities?
- ☐ If my child starts having difficulty, what are the most effective steps we can take at home to help them make progress?



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SUPPORT



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ENCOURAGE

means you are your child's cheerleader and #1 fan!

Take Action!

- ☒ Share your story. Talk with your child about your learning challenges and successes to show that curiosity, effort, and persistence are normal parts of learning.
- ☒ Praise your child. Positive feedback builds confidence, reinforces learning, and shows that hard work and curiosity are valued.
- ☒ Have your child explain a challenging concept. Teaching it in their own words strengthens understanding and builds pride in what they know.
- ☒ Celebrate problem-solving. Talk about your child's strategies and what worked to reinforce persistence and critical thinking.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What strengths or positive habits do you see in my child that I can reinforce at home?
- ☐ How can I encourage my child to take risks in learning while staying motivated?
- ☐ What activities can I do with my child to reinforce what they've learned in class?