



YOUR ROLE MATTERS: 6 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING IN PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY 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!

- ☒ Review homework and classroom tasks to ensure they're complete and accurate.
- ☒ Read with your child daily, ask questions about their stories, and notice comprehension and effort.
- ☒ Stay in touch with teachers: Ask for updates on your child's progress and areas for improvement.
- ☒ Before family conferences, reach out to your child's teacher to request any assessment data and to share the priorities you'd like to discuss.



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What should my child know and be able to do at their grade level? Is my child meeting these benchmarks?
- ☐ What reading level is typical for this time of year, and where is my child now?
- ☐ Does my child seem to learn math concepts better through visuals, practice, or discussion?



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE



MONITOR



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

MODEL

means you lead by example.

Take Action!

- ☒ Communicate high expectations by letting your child know you believe in their ability to succeed. When children know their family expects effort and growth, they build confidence and stay motivated.
- ☒ Bring math into everyday life. Ask questions such as “Which container holds more?” or “Can we count down together from thirty?” to make math part of daily routines.
- ☒ Include your child in writing-related tasks at home, like making grocery lists, drafting thank-you notes, or creating a family newsletter.
- ☒ Read and talk about books together. Show enjoyment of reading by reading aloud, sharing stories, and discussing what you read to model curiosity and comprehension.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What is my child currently learning in class that I can reinforce at home?
- ☐ What reading strategies are you teaching that I can practice and model with my child?
- ☐ Which math routines or habits should I model to help my child succeed in school?



MONITOR



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

CO-CREATE

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

Take Action!

- ☒ Collaborate with teachers. Work together to set learning goals and discuss strategies that support your child's growth.
- ☒ Share insights about your child. Give teachers information about your child's strengths, interests, and challenges to help tailor instruction.
- ☒ Suggest meaningful activities. Offer ideas for projects, hands-on experiments, or real-life connections to reinforce classroom learning.
- ☒ Coordinate learning experiences at home. Integrate literacy, math, and problem-solving into daily routines that complement school lessons.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ What goals should we focus on for my child this term, and how can I support them at home?
- ☐ What patterns or behaviors have you noticed that I should know about to better support learning?
- ☐ How can we best communicate about my child's progress and challenges?



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SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

SUPPORT

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

Take Action!

- ✓ After reading, ask your child to retell the story in their own words to build comprehension and sequencing skills.
- ✓ Ask “why” and “how” questions. Encourage deeper thinking by asking your child to explain their reasoning or choices.
- ✓ Use visuals for math. Have your child draw pictures, diagrams, or use objects to work through problems.
- ✓ Talk through problem-solving. Encourage your child to explain their thinking step by step when solving math problems.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- Are there any patterns you've noticed in the kinds of mistakes my child makes?
- What strategies do you use in class to support my child when they get stuck?
- What can I do if my child struggles or feels frustrated?



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SUPPORT



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ADVOCATE

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

Take Action!

- ☒ Communicate with teachers about what your child does well and where they may need extra support. You know your child best!
- ☒ Stay in regular contact with your child's teacher to receive updates on classroom learning, upcoming assignments, and any challenges your child may be facing.
- ☒ Ask about enrichment opportunities to ensure your child can participate in advanced lessons, clubs, or programs that match their interests and abilities.
- ☒ Request additional support by asking if the school if a parent advocate, counselor, or learning specialist can help your child if they are struggling academically or socially.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ Does my child reach out for help or ask questions when something is unclear?
- ☐ Are there spots where my child is finding things harder or could use extra help?
- ☐ Who should I contact if I feel my child needs additional support or accommodations?



MONITOR



MODEL



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SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

ENCOURAGE

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

Take Action!

- ☒ Celebrate effort by praising your child for trying new challenges and noticing their persistence and improvement, not just the outcome.
- ☒ Guide with care by offering gentle support to build confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning.
- ☒ Notice small wins by cheering your child's successes in math, even the little ones.
- ☒ Keep paper and pencil handy so kids can create stories, lists, and notes when bored. Don't worry about spelling during fun writing time.

Ask Your Child's School Team

- ☐ In what ways does my child shine during class?
- ☐ What efforts or improvements have you noticed in my child recently?
- ☐ Are there small challenges I can give my child to help them grow without causing frustration?