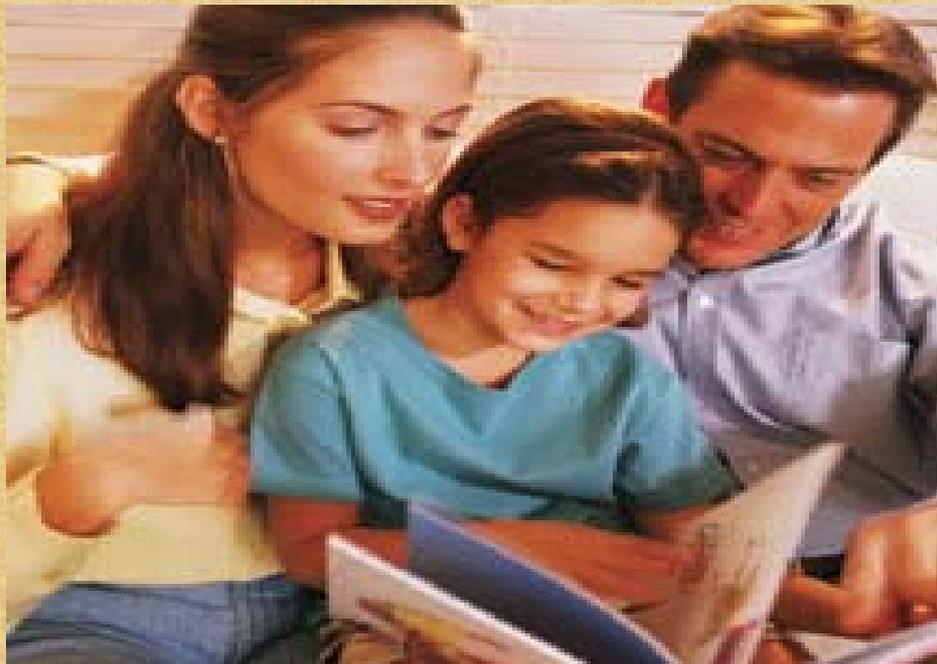




Help Your Child Succeed in School

**A parent's guide to K-12
school success at Dripping
Springs ISD**

You are Your Child's First Teacher



Parent Involvement

- The more involved you are in your child's education, the more likely your child is to succeed in school.
- Research shows that parent support is more important to school success than a student's IQ, economic status, or school setting.

When Parents are Involved

- Children get higher grades and test scores.
- Children have better attitudes and behavior.
- Children complete more homework.
- Children are more likely to complete high school and enroll in post-high school education.

Parent Involvement Begins at Home

Spend time with your child

- Ask your child about his or her day.
- Use car time to talk with, and listen to, your child.
- Take walks or ride bikes together.
- Look for things to do as a family.
- Eat dinner together and use this time to talk about the day's events.

Parent Involvement Begins at Home

Help your child develop routines

- Have regular homework or reading time.
- Give your child age-appropriate chores.
- Make sure your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning.

Parent Involvement Begins at Home

- Sleep is vital to top performance academically, emotionally and socially. Below are some of suggested amounts of sleep.
- 3-6 Years Old: 10 - 12 hours per day
- 7-12 Years Old: 10 - 11 hours per day
- 12-18 Years Old: 8 - 9 hours per day

Parent Involvement Begins at Home

Teach your child to love to read

- Read to your child from an early age.
- Let your child see you read.
- Listen to your child read.
- Take your child to the library to check out books of interest.
- Provide your child with books and magazines written at his or her reading level.

Parent Involvement Begins at Home

Create a study environment in your home

- Do not allow the TV to be on while your child is doing homework.
- Make a study area that has paper, pencils, pens, erasers, a dictionary, and other materials your child uses to do schoolwork.
- Check your child's homework when it is finished.

In Elementary School

Talk with your child about schoolwork

- Ask about homework and check to see that your child has done all the work assigned.
- Ask your child to show you his or her schoolwork and note the grades and comments made by the teacher.
- Discuss how the skills your child is learning in school are an important part of everyday life. Let your child see you read, write, and use math.

In Elementary School

Talk with your child's teacher

- Introduce yourself at the beginning of the school year.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- If possible, spend time at your child's school and classroom as a volunteer or visitor.
- If you use email, find out if your child's teacher uses email to communicate with parents.

Turn Daily Activities into Learning

- *Cook together.* Your child can read the recipe and measure ingredients.
- *Do laundry.* Your child can sort laundry by color, read washing instructions, measure laundry soap, and time wash cycles.
- *Go grocery shopping.* Your child can write the shopping list, compare prices, and identify and classify food items.
- *Organize the house.* Your child can sort and arrange items in the junk drawer.

Turn Daily Activities into Learning

- *Have a ball!* Label a kickball with numbers or feeling words. Toss the ball back and forth for math facts reinforcement or to get them talking about their feelings. (When they catch the ball they discuss the # or feeling under their thumbs.)

Elementary TEACHERS Say...

- Have a time set aside daily to read with your child. Read for pleasure every day. It builds the love for reading. Read-even the big kids!
- Get organized: Designate an area (basket, box, etc.) for papers and notes that you need to look over, sign, etc. The kitchen is a great place for this. After you look over graded assignments, put those with marked incorrect answers in the designated area and when you have 10 minutes or so, go over a few of them at a time with your child.

Elementary TEACHERS Say...

- Talk with your child every day. Use car/travel time to talk with your child about their day and what they are learning. You can quiz them on math facts or just listen as they talk about their day. For those that say, "We didn't do anything today," use the assignment log/planner as conversation starters. Also look at your child's planner to help keep current .
- Be positive about school--even if you had a bad experience as a student. If there is a problem, don't talk negatively around your child--talk to the teacher to solve the problem in a way that can help school continue to be a positive experience for your child.

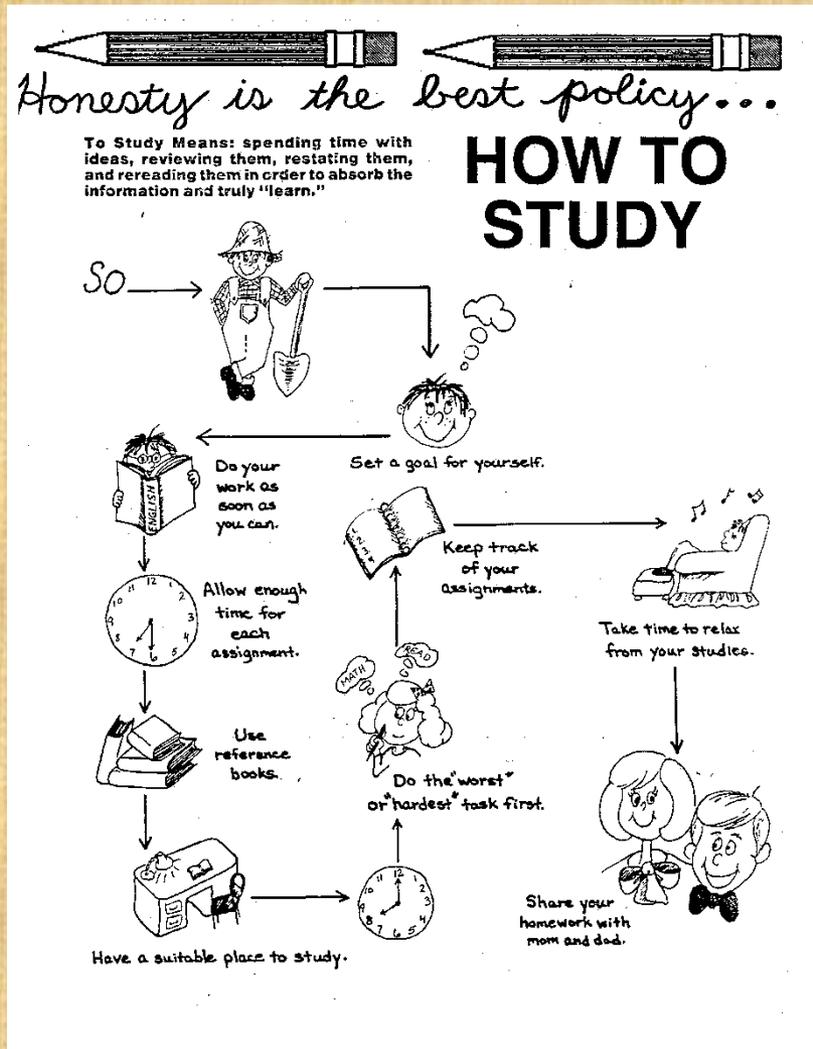
Elementary TEACHERS Say...

- Make sure your kids get plenty of exercise... time to just play.
- Keep healthy snacks in the house to help developing bodies and brains thrive. Meaningful Calories (including nutritious snacks between meals, esp. between breakfast and lunch)
- Go to bed early. Adequate Sleep (10 hours/night for fifth-graders)
- Get involved with the school and your child's activities

Elementary TEACHERS Say...

- Stay involved with what's going on with your child at school.
- Communicate with the teachers often.
- School comes before extra curricular activities!

How to Study Flow Chart



Help Your Child Feel Good about Education

Find 5 reasons to praise your child every day.

- Help your child focus on his or her strengths
- Let your child know that he or she is a valuable, capable person and that you know he or she can succeed.

Have high expectations for learning and behavior, at home and at school.

- When you expect the best, your child will rise to those expectations.
- Be a good role model for getting work done before play.

More Ways to Praise

- Wow! Way to go! Super! You're Special!!
Outstanding! Excellent! Great! Neat !!Well done
Remarkable! I knew you could do it! I'm proud of
you! Fantastic! Super star! Looking good! You're
on top of it! You're catching on! Now you've got
it! How smart! Hot dog! You're beautiful! Great
discovery! You're a real trooper! You are
responsible! You mean a lot to me! That's correct!
You're a treasure! You're wonderful !
- Blow a Kiss!

In Middle and High School

Reinforce the importance of school

- **Speak positively about your child's teachers and counselors.**
- **Make sure your child gets to school on time and completes homework.**
- **Talk to your child about the benefits of education.**
- **Attend open houses and parent-teacher conferences.**

Support Your Teen

- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Set fair and consistent rules, with your teen's input.
- Set a good example through your own involvement in the school and community.
- Continue to make time for family activities.
- Limit the time your child spends watching TV and playing video games.

Help Your Child Choose Classes

- In middle school, your child will take classes that will prepare him or her for high school coursework.
- In high school, your child should choose challenging classes that will prepare him or her for postsecondary education coursework – even if he or she does not plan to go to college.
- Help your child choose classes that will meet college entrance requirements, and that may support his or her interests.
- Encourage your child to get involved in school activities that complement his or her interests.

Help Your Child Make Plans

- Help your child discover his or her interests and start making a plan for life after high school.
- Help your child set goals and plan how to reach those goals, through education and activities.
- Let your child explore educational and career choices while in school, so he or she can have a solid plan for post-high school education and work.

In Summary

- If school is important to you, it will be important to your child.
- Set high expectations for your child and support your child in meeting those expectations.
- Stay aware of your child's social life, activities, and schoolwork.
- You, your child, and the school will benefit from your continued support.