

Structuring Your



Home for School Success

As a parent, you already provide for your child's basic needs. Here are more ways to make your home a learning place.

Be your children's first teacher.

- ▼ Let your children know you expect them to work hard in school. Model positive attitudes about school and learning.
- ▼ Check your child's backpack daily for notes from the school and homework assignments.
- ▼ Home-school communication is key to a positive school experience for all.
- ▼ Read books together or tell stories or visit libraries, museums, parks, and nature centers.

Build motivation.

- ▼ Teach your children to set goals for themselves. Start small and build. "I will complete my spelling worksheet." Next, "I'll get a B on this week's test."
 - ▼ Encourage children to think positively. "I can do this; it's not so hard. I'm a smart kid."
 - ▼ Post your children's schoolwork. Let them catch you bragging about their efforts to your friend.
 - ▼ Discuss and show them the progress they make from one grade to the next, from one month to the next, even from one week to the next.
 - ▼ Praise effort as well as achievement. "I can tell that you worked hard on your math homework."
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Organize space and time.

- ▼ Choose a regular time and place for your children to complete homework. Limit distractions.
- ▼ Allow time for breaks and rest.
- ▼ Although some children prefer quiet while working, others do not.
- ▼ The television should not be on during study time. However, soft music may actually encourage and help focus some children.
- ▼ Many younger children prefer to work with an adult nearby.
- ▼ Have school supplies available. Use a planner, a calendar, or a list for tracking assignments.
- ▼ Demonstrate how to clean out and organize a backpack so that younger children can eventually make this their own responsibility.



Foster Responsibility.

- ▼ Give children regular chores to do at home.
- ▼ Discuss how each person in the family contributes to the family's well-being.
- ▼ For example, "Josh gets up with his alarm and washes and dresses without needing reminders." "Maria packs up her backpack each evening so that she is prepared for school in the morning."



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