

Parents - Fifteen ways to help your child

Below are fifteen ways you can encourage your child's learning:

1. Listen to them and pay attention to their problems.
Children often need time to work out and explain what is worrying them. Even when your day is very busy try to find the time and space to listen to your child.
2. Read with them.
Reading with and to a child is one of the most important ways you can help your child learn. Look at the section 'Read to me!' to learn more.
3. Tell family stories.
Children are fascinated about your school experiences, where you were born, what your family traditions and celebrations were. Knowing this helps them to understand more about who they are.
4. Limit their television viewing.
See the section "Children, Television and Computers" for more information about this.
5. Have books and other reading materials around the house.
Not only will they learn from the books and magazines but they will improve their reading skills.
6. Encourage them to use an encyclopedia.
This is a good way for them to find their information they need. They might need help in knowing how to use one! You could try using the internet if you have access.
7. Help them look up words in a dictionary.
Often children do not know the meaning of the words they are using. Learning how to look them up in a dictionary will help them improve their vocabulary as well as their spelling!
8. Share favorite poems and songs with them.
Music and rhythm can be important ways to help children learn. Let them share their songs with you, neither of you needs to be a wonderful singer!
9. Take them to the library to get their own library cards.
And then help them choose their own books!
10. Take them to museums and historic sites, whenever possible.
Not only can this be a fun day out - you will all learn something.
11. Discuss the daily news with them.
Children need to know what is going on in the world. Help explain situations to them. May children become afraid of things they see or hear on the news and need you to explain what is happening in a way they can understand.

12. Go exploring with them and learn more about plants, animals, and geography.
Every child likes to explore - need we say more!
13. Find a quiet place for them to study.
They need a place without the distraction of TV or loud music so they can read and do their homework. Try to find a space, however small, where this can happen.
14. Review their homework.
You don't need to correct everything! But if you show interest in the work they have done it will encourage them to do their best.
15. Meet with their teachers.
This is important for many reasons. See the section ;Working with the school" for more ideas about this.