

LATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS: GRADE 5

PARENTS CAN HELP

- Review your child's work on a daily basis. Discuss assignments, check for understanding and comprehension, and determine if there are additional resources needed in order to complete the work.
- Communicate with the school regularly. Respond to requests from the school and attend meetings. This involvement signals to your child that even though he/she is becoming more mature and working more independently, you are still an important part of the schooling process. By investing in relationships with teachers and other parents, you are able to gain insight into your child's academic progress, as well as to better understand his/her friends and relationships outside the home.
- Give your child responsibilities at home (chores, errands, small jobs). Make sure that the job fits the child's capabilities. Taking these responsibilities helps your child develop independence and self-discipline. Be sure to show appreciation in some special way for a job well done.
- At some quiet, relaxed time, ask your child about school. Choose a time when you have an opportunity to listen and your child is most likely to feel like talking.
- Provide opportunities for your child to participate in activities that extend special interests or talents—sports, music, clubs, etc.
- Set limits that are reasonable, flexible, and fair so that your child is aware of the behavior expected not only at school, but at home.
- Give your child many opportunities to engage in dialogue about abstract ideas, opinions, and values. Express your own opinions, and encourage your child to do the same.
- Take your child to a local political event, such as a hearing or a debate so he/she can see the democratic process at work.
- Should you need help with problems that arise, school counselors, community health agencies, physicians, and your local church or synagogue are sources of assistance.