

HELP YOUR CHILD TO BETTER GRADES

(Taken from "Parent - Student Handbook")

*You can increase your child's motivation.
The more interest the child takes in his studies now,
the more the child will learn.*

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Encourage regular study habits and set a regular "study / homework time". If your child gets in the habit of studying every day from, say 4:30 to 5:30 P.M., he won't be tempted to wander off to some other diversion until his homework is done.
2. Make learning fun. In the evening after the regular study period is over, play word games with your youngster. Give the child words to spell to improve spelling skills. Name geographical places and have the child repeat the name, point the location out on a map or globe. Don't make the questions too difficult or your child may become discouraged and lose enthusiasm.
3. Give your youngster the joy of accomplishment. If his report card is outstanding, congratulate the student. Your praise when deserved can be a tremendous motivating force. If you have a family word processor or computer, encourage your child to use it under your supervision. Children will feel important operating a "grown-up" machine.
4. Teach your child to concentrate. There is a time for study and then there is a time for television and/or video games. The two do not mix. Make sure your child has a quiet place to study, free from distractions. The sound of a ball game in the street, music, even the rattling of pans when you are preparing dinner in the kitchen -- all distract from your student's study efforts. Study more difficult subjects first while the mind is fresh. Take notes, including important phrases and key words, as age level appropriate.
5. Show your child how to save time. Proper preparation helps the child. Before sitting down with homework, your child should have pencils sharpened, books readily accessible, and the light properly adjusted if not near a window. The dictionary, map, globe, computer, or other needed reference/study materials should be right at hand. The child should do everything possible to avoid having to get up in the midst of studies.
6. Do not help your child too much. You do not really help by doing a student's homework. The student needs the practice opportunity homework provides. Cooperate with the teacher. Have a visit with the teacher a few weeks after school starts. By that time the teacher will know more about your child's ability and attitudes, and will be able to advise you on the amount and kind of help you should give. If the teacher asks you not to help in certain subjects, by all means follow that advice.
7. Never use aggressive behavior to force your child to study. The child will not learn very much by you holding a book in front of his nose, and force may set up a psychological block against study that might hinder student progress for years. Provide nurturing assistance as needed.

8. In penmanship lessons, encourage writing with careful spacing and straight lines. Require neat penmanship that is legible.
9. Teach concentration on words and sentences, not on individual letters. Thinking in terms of words and sentences will be a great aid toward correct spelling and good composition.
10. Above all, impress on your child the fact that learning is important. Explain why it's important, and what it will mean in the years ahead. If the child wants to be an engineer or a businessman, point out how vital math and science will be. In almost any field chosen, reading will be essential. Let your student know that learning is the student's responsibility, not yours or the teacher's. Keeping an "assignment notebook" will help the student be more organized and productive. Children at school have a job to do, just as adults do. Express your interest in seeing how well that job is done.

If you follow these ten steps carefully and if you give your child all the friendly help, patience and understanding of a concerned parent, then you will be leading your child to better grades.