

# 10 WAYS TO Motivate Your Child to Learn

Inspire a thirst for knowledge inside—and outside—of school.

Do you want your child to be a stellar student? Then don't limit learning to the walls of the school classroom. The skills students learn are important for their intellectual and social growth. But your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas. The renewed joy in discovery will transfer to schoolwork, so you'll boost academic achievement, too!

- 1. Fill your child's world with reading.** Demonstrate how important reading is. Establish a family reading time when everyone reads a book or magazine—in print, online, or on an eReader. Also, fill your home with printed materials. This includes novels, newspapers, and even posters and placemats with words on them.
- 2. Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.** He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
- 3. Show enthusiasm for your child's interests.**  
**Encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.** If she's a sports fan, offer her books and articles about athletes, or, challenge her to find five facts about different sports in the encyclopedia or online.
- 4. Encourage academic and career goals.** Help your child make the school-career connection early on. Talk to him about his favorite subjects. Then plan family activities that connect with these subjects. This will emphasize real-world connections to academics.
- 5. Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm.** Discuss with her the different ways you find new information. It could be anything from gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class in American literature.
- 6. Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores.** Have him teach you what he learned in school today. Putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what he learned.



- 7. Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work.** If her task seems too daunting, she'll spend more time worrying than learning. Check in with her regularly to make sure she's not feeling overloaded.
- 8. Celebrate achievements, no matter how small.** Completing a book report calls for a special treat. It could be an hour of video games, or a ticket to see a movie. Your treat will be positive reinforcement. And that will inspire him to keep learning and challenging himself.
- 9. Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents.** Even if she didn't ace her math test, she may have written a good poem in English class. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal, or encourage her to set one up on the computer.
- 10. Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.** Encourage him to explore the world around him. This involves asking questions and making connections.