

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



Parent involvement – the secret ingredient to children’s school success

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.

If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it’s important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child’s education as practical.

The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Parent involvement takes energy

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Unfortunately, finding parents who are willing to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many parents find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child’s school.

Make sure kids are school ready every day

Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.

These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

✓ **Find out** what your school is trying to **achieve** for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child’s school apart from others.

✓ **Support** a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a **variety of educational experiences** rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s.

✓ **Direct conversations** through the **correct channels** such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.

✓ Become an **advocate** for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take **pride** in their school through your example.

✓ **Attend** school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. **Invite** other members of the community along as well.

✓ **Consult** with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.



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