

Reminders . . .

. . . Being on time and prepared for school is important.

. . . Children like routine. Establish routines in your house so that things run more smoothly.

. . . Every experience can be turned into a learning experience. Car trips, waiting in line, going shopping, playing games and even doing bedtime routine is a chance for you to interact with and enjoy your child.

. . . The most important part of being human is learning to get along with others. Teaching and modeling sharing, giving, kindness, gentleness, fairness, and happiness is the best gift you can give your child. Learning is a natural part of growing, and if you encourage your child to love him/herself, it will occur naturally.

PARENTHOOD. . . the most important job in the world . . .

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Helping Your Child
Succeed in School



Ages 0-5 Years

- ♥ Read to your baby/toddler/child every day. Look at pictures, name objects, use “touch books”.
- ♥ Teach rhymes and songs. Watch “Sesame Street”, “Blues Clues”, “Stanley” and “Barney” together.
- ♥ Draw pictures of self, family, house, trees, flowers, cars, etc.
- ♥ Don’t encourage “baby-talk”. Encourage your children to correctly name objects.
- ♥ Count steps with your children. Count steps to the bedroom from the kitchen, or from the porch to the mailbox, etc.
- ♥ Name and talk about people who serve the community (police, fire fighters, mail carriers, clergy).
- ♥ Play “Simon Says”, or “Mother, May I” to perform specific body movements such as “jump”, “sit down”, “turn around”.
- ♥ Have your children repeat sentences you say for fun while riding in the car or waiting in line.
- ♥ Encourage your children to use their imagination. Provide toys that require making things up as you go along.
- ♥ If you only have 15 minutes a day, **READ, READ, READ** . . . to your children!



Ages 5-12 Years

As soon as they are able, help your children memorize their full name, address (including Detroit, Michigan), telephone number and full date of birth.

Talk to your children about school. Ask questions requiring more than “yes” or “no” answers. Listen without interrupting. Praise even the smallest successes.

Make a special place for studying. It should not be near a TV or a window with a view. It should be well lit and school supplies should be handy.

Set up a time each day, or every other day, for “learning time”. Even if there is no homework, have your children do something she likes, using the school supplies at the study area. Verbally praise and show interest in all efforts.

Have your children describe how things are the same, and as they mature, have them describe how things are different. Accept all answers, and then include your own.

Display joy and affection when your children talk to you. Smile a lot. Be gentle with them – remember – you are teaching them how to treat others by your example.

Have your children “earn” privileges such as using the phone, spending money, staying up later, watching television, participating in weekend activities, etc.

Suggestions for Effective Parenting

- ❖ Don’t expect more from your children than you do from yourself.
- ❖ Be consistent.
- ❖ Establish reasonable rules and consequences.
- ❖ Don’t reinforce inappropriate behaviors.
- ❖ Accidents do happen . . .
- ❖ If you know that they did it . . . why ask?
- ❖ Remain calm.
- ❖ Correct without criticizing.
- ❖ Present options . . . but don’t condemn for their choices.
- ❖ Empathize with the feelings your children are expressing or experiencing.
- ❖ Be honest.
- ❖ Encourage independence.
- ❖ Both parents should agree on childrearing practices.
- ❖ Love your children and set realistic expectations.