



Ten things teachers wish parents would do to improve student learning

1. **Be involved.** Parent involvement improves schools, helps teachers teach and helps students learn.
2. **Provide resources at home for learning.** Parents should have books and magazines available and read with their children each day.
3. **Model that reading is important.** Parents should show their children that they believe reading is both enjoyable and useful. Show you value reading by not spending too much time watching TV.
4. **Encourage students to do their best in school.** Parents need to show students they believe education is important and want their children to do their best.
5. **Emphasize academics.** Too many parents get caught up in school athletics/activities and in allowing students to spend too much time on part-time jobs after school. While these can be, and often are, an important part of a child's education, keep them in perspective. Academics should be their first concern. To get the most out of their education, students need to consider school their full-time job.
6. **Support school rules and goals.** Parents should take care not to undermine school rules, discipline or goals. Support the teacher and school whenever possible. If you have a problem, call the teacher and discuss it before you send the wrong message to your children.
7. **Use pressure positively.** Parents should encourage children to do their best but not pressure them by setting goals too high or by scheduling too many activities.
8. **Call teachers if there is a problem or concern.** Most problems can be resolved simply by talking. Don't wait for teachers to call you.
9. **Accept your responsibility as parents.** Don't expect the school and teachers to take over your obligations as parents. Parents should teach children basic discipline and respect for others and property at home.
10. **View drinking and excess partying as a serious matter.** This takes a toll on students' classroom behavior. While parents express concern about drug abuse, many fail to recognize that alcohol is the drug most frequently abused by children, as well as adults. Model your values regarding drugs and alcohol.

(Excerpted and adopted for the "National PTA Talks to Parents.")