Helping Children Learn

Bring out the leader inside your elementary school

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Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better In School

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With Observations

Girls and boys have different ways in which they like to learn. Girls like to learn the details of things, while boys like to learn the bigger picture. Girls are more likely to ask questions and seek help from others when they don't understand something, while boys are more likely to figure things out on their own. Girls tend to be more talkative in class, while boys are more likely to be quiet. Girls are more likely to be sensitive to other people's feelings, while boys are more likely to be more direct and straightforward. Girls tend to be more creative and imaginative, while boys are more likely to be more analytical and logical. Girls tend to be more emotional, while boys are more likely to be more practical. Girls are more likely to be more patient, while boys are more likely to be more impatient. Girls tend to be more competitive, while boys are more likely to be more cooperative. Girls tend to be more rule-conscious, while boys are more likely to be more rule-breakers. Girls tend to be more cooperative, while boys are more likely to be more independent. Girls tend to be more goal-oriented, while boys are more likely to be more free-spirited. Girls tend to be more organized, while boys are more likely to be more disorganized. Girls tend to be more cheerful, while boys are more likely to be more serious. Girls tend to be more adaptable, while boys are more likely to be more rigid.

I.

Remember that children are not just small adults. They are unique individuals with their own strengths and weaknesses. As parents, we need to help our children develop their strengths and work on their weaknesses. We need to help our children learn how to be the best version of themselves. We need to help our children learn how to be leaders. We need to help our children learn how to be the best leaders they can be.

II.

Leaders are not born, they are made. Children can learn how to be leaders by following these tips:

1. **Look up words you are unsure of** in the dictionary. Ask your child if he knows the meanings of words like the child if he knows the meanings.

2. **Join him when he reads.** Grab any books you'd like to read together. Look up the meaning of words that are new to him. Ask him how he understands the meaning of the words. Ask him how he is doing.

3. **Teach her to look at things from other people's points of view.** Good leaders are able to see things from other people's perspectives. This helps them make better decisions.

4. **Bring out the leader inside your elementary school.** Children are leaders at school develop important skills such as problem-solving communication and responsibility. These skills are often self-efficient. Creative and require practice. Practice makes perfect. Children need to practice these skills and develop their leadership skills.

5. **Offer her leadership opportunities.** Athletic teams, clubs, and many other activities can provide chances for your child to lead. At home, let your child lead a family meeting or manage a family project.

6. **Don't push too much pressure on him to perform.** Leaders need time to think and to make mistakes. Leaders need to be able to make mistakes and learn from them.

7. **Find a mentor.** A mentor can be a valuable resource for your child. A mentor can provide guidance and help your child develop his leadership skills.

III.

Leadership is not just about being the best. Leadership is about helping others to be the best. Leaders need to be able to motivate and inspire others. Leaders need to be able to communicate effectively. Leaders need to be able to think critically. Leaders need to be able to work cooperatively. Leaders need to be able to adapt to change. Leaders need to be able to make difficult decisions.

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Q&A

Is it a good idea to offer money for good grades?

Q: My son gets average grades, but I know he could do better. Should I pay him for top grades?

A: It's natural to want your child to live up to his potential. While researchers have experimented with paying students for performance, the results don't show much long-term benefit. And there are some serious drawbacks to this kind of incentive.

Paying for grades:

- **Deprives your child** of the satisfaction of learning for its own sake. Mastering new skills and learning new things gives kids confidence in themselves and their abilities as students. When you pay your child for grades, you run the risk of decreasing his self-confidence.

- **Ignores effort.** If your child is giving his best effort, neither of you should worry if he earns a B instead of an A. And if he's trying hard and earns a low grade, you know that it's time to consult the teacher about how to help your child.

- **Reduces internal motivation.** A love of learning will always motivate your child. But paying him shifts his focus to the money. And he's more likely to put his hand out every time he's asked to do something. Instead of offering cash, help your child build his study skills and focus on what he is learning. Encourage him to recognize and be proud of his new abilities. And praise him for working hard and doing his best.

Parent Quiz

Are you encouraging resilience?

Failure is scary for kids—and parents. But learning how to bounce back from a failure is a valuable lesson. Are you teaching your child that failure isn't the end of the world? Answer yes or no to the questions below:

1. **Do you allow** your child to solve problems on her own, even if she may fail?
2. **Do you encourage** her to think about what she can do differently next time, when things don't go right?
3. **Do you admit** your own failures, and talk about how to fix them?
4. **Do you help** your child put setbacks into perspective?  “You didn’t ace your test, but you earned a higher grade than last time!”
5. **Do you teach** her to win graciously and lose cheerfully?  How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are showing your child how to rebound from failure. For each no, try that idea.

The new year is a new chance to achieve goals

If your child set some goals in September, but didn't really follow through, January is the perfect time to start again. To make this the year your child learns how to achieve his goals, encourage him to:

1. **State** his goal. Have your child write it down and post it where he will see it.
2. **Plan** how to meet the goal. What specific steps will he take?
3. **Talk** about the goal with others. This builds commitment. Have your child tell the teacher his goal.
4. **Carry out** his plan, one step at a time. If problems arise, your child can discuss possible solutions with you.

Review the rules together

Sometimes children get in trouble at school because they don't remember the rules. Review the school rules with your child. Talk about how they are needed to keep the school a safe, peaceful and orderly place where kids can learn. Let your child know that you expect her to follow the rules.

Stay flexible when your child solves problems

When you find yourself stuck in traffic, you can sometimes choose another route. Getting to your destination matters more than which road you take.

When your child has a problem to solve, instead of giving him a road map (first do this, then do that), remind him of his destination: “You need to find a way to finish your report even though your classmates have the book you need.” He may not select the solution you would. But if he arrives at his destination honestly, let the solution stand.