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Kindergarten Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great kindergarten year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Read to your child every night.

Reading to your child expands his/her vocabulary, stimulates your kindergartener's imagination, and improves your child's listening skills. It also nurtures the bond between you and your child.



2. Encourage active reading.

While reading a story, ask your child questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?" "What would you do?" and "How do you think he felt?"



3. Develop writing skills.

Encourage your child to write simple thank you notes and get well cards, and to title and sign his/her artwork.



4. Build math skills.

Look for ways to talk about numbers in everyday life. Ask your child to bring you a certain number of objects, and play games that require counting.



5. Stay informed.

Attend parent programs, meetings, and parent-teacher conferences. Also, regularly check your school's website for news and updates.



6. Work with your child's teacher.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, be sure to talk to your child's teacher.



7. Develop routines.

Routines for sleep, meals, chores, and play provide stability for young learners. Sticking to routines at home will also help your child follow the routines at school.



8. Be interested and enthusiastic.

Talk about what happened at school each day. Ask specific questions about your child's day, such as, "Who did you play with at recess today?"



9. Teach independence.

Encourage your child to do things for him/herself, such as using the bathroom independently and zipping up his/her own coat.



10. Build social skills.

Children need support as they learn to build relationships outside of their family. Encourage your child to use words to let others know what he/she needs and wants.

Helping your child have a successful year doesn't require doing extraordinary things. It's the little things you do each day that provide the guidance and support your child needs.



1st Grade Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great first grade year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Encourage everyday reading.

Ask your child to point out words he/she recognizes in books, on street signs, and in stores—and to also try to sound out unknown words.



2. Promote active reading.

While reading a story, ask your child questions such as, “What do you think will happen next?” “What would you do?” and “How do you think he felt?”



3. Develop writing skills.

Have writing supplies readily available. Encourage your child to make cards for family members, write thank you notes, and put titles on artwork.



4. Build math skills.

Provide small objects such as cereal for your child to practice counting up to 120. Use drawings and small objects to practice adding and subtracting.



5. Support your child.

First graders are learning many new things and may get frustrated at times. If your child gets frustrated, provide encouragement and be available to help.



6. Create a homework routine.

Many children start getting homework in the first grade. Have a specific time, place, and routine for doing homework.



7. Let your child make choices.

Allow your child to choose which clothes to wear (with your help), the bedtime book, or what game to play.



8. Be interested and enthusiastic.

Talk about what happened at school each day. Ask specific questions about your child's day, such as, "Who did you play with at recess?"



9. Develop motor skills.

Give your child play dough to build hand strength for fine motor skills. Encourage jumping, kicking a ball, or dancing to develop large motor skills.



10. Promote confidence.

Give your child a small job to do each week (e.g., set the table, put clothes away, feed a pet). When you give your child a task, make sure that it's completed. It's important for children to learn to finish what they start.

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2nd Grade Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great second grade year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Read together.

Read to your child every day and have your child read to you. Ask questions such as “*What do you think will happen next?*” and “*What would you do?*”



2. Develop writing skills.

Ask your child to write about something that was enjoyable or fun, such as a friend’s birthday party, family outing, or vacation.



3. Build math skills.

While your child is completing routine tasks, verbally quiz him/her on addition and subtraction facts (e.g., $9+1$, $10-4$). Be sure to keep it fun!



4. Encourage curiosity.

Visit museums. Explore nature. Search online together for answers to questions like “*How are thunder and lightning formed?*”



5. Develop large motor skills.

Encourage fun physical activities, such as riding bikes, swimming, hiking, kicking a soccer ball, or playing catch.



6. Develop a homework routine.

Have a set time and a comfortable, quiet place for your child to do homework. Limit distractions and be available to help.



7. Encourage conversations.

Ask your child open-ended questions. Instead of “How was school?” ask, “What did you eat for lunch?” or “What’s something new you learned today?”



8. Talk about feelings.

Encourage your child to talk about his/her feelings, and talk about your own as well. For example, tell your child that you get upset when his/her toys aren’t picked up, and explain why.



9. Develop social skills.

Help your child improve his/her social skills by providing opportunities for your child to interact with other children in a variety of settings.



10. Increase self-confidence.

Provide praise for positive effort and actions. Try to make the praise specific: “I like how you shared your new toy with your sister.”

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3rd Grade Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great third grade year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Make reading a priority.

Encourage your child to read independently—and ask your child to tell you about what he/she is reading.



2. Make writing fun.

Create a “dialogue journal” (a notebook in which you and your child write back and forth to each other) or suggest your child try creative writing.



3. Apply math to real life.

Ask your child to count out the correct coins to pay for an item or help you measure things for a home project.

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4. Provide math encouragement.

Third graders are learning many new math skills and may become frustrated at times. If your child ever gets discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and be available to help.



5. Reduce test anxiety.

In many states, third grade is an important year for standardized testing. Explain that the test doesn't affect school grades, and tell your child to just do his/her best.



6. Help develop organization skills.

Provide your child with folders, binders, and/or a planner, and help him/her set up a system for recording assignments and organizing papers.



7. Make attendance a priority.

Attendance is the #1 school success factor. Make sure your child is in school, on time, every day.



8. Help your child develop routines.

Having good morning and nighttime routines helps students stay organized. They also make the day run smoother.



9. Monitor homework.

Create a schedule that makes homework a part of the daily routine. Turn off the TV, remove distractions, and make homework time a quiet time in your home.



10. Provide support.

Children with a positive self-image are better able to deal with peer pressure. Provide a loving, stable home environment, and spend time with your child to help him/her develop a strong sense of self.

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4th Grade Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great fourth grade year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Make attendance a priority.

Attendance is the #1 school success factor. Make sure your child is in school, on time, every day.



2. Read together.

Choose a book series to work through together (e.g., *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Magic Tree House*). Take turns reading to each other.



3. Encourage writing.

Have your child write thank you notes, letters to friends and relatives, or a poem or short story to share.

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4. Model problem solving.

If your child asks for help with math homework, verbalize your thinking as you determine how to work out a math problem.



5. Help your child get organized.

Provide your student with folders, binders, and/or a planner. Help your child create a simple system for organizing papers and recording homework assignments.



6. Help your child deal with stress.

Teach your child some simple calming strategies, such as deep breathing (inhale, count to four, exhale, repeat).



7 Encourage physical activity.

Students this age need a physical outlet for all of their energy. Explore various options and help your child find activities he/she enjoys.



8. Explain rules and limits.

Fourth graders often have lots of questions (and opinions) about rules. Take the time to explain the “why” behind school and home rules.



9. Talk about friends.

Peers are important to fourth graders and they like being part of a group. Talk about how things are going at school and with friends, and look for group activities your child will enjoy.



10. Provide support.

Spend one-on-one time with your child, provide a loving, stable home environment, and let your child know that you are proud of him/her.

Helping your child have a successful year doesn't require doing extraordinary things. It's the little things you do each day that provide the guidance and support your child needs.



5th Grade Success Tips for Parents

Help your child have a great fifth grade year. These ten tips are sure to put your child on the path to success this year—and for years to come!



1. Make attendance a priority.

Attendance is the #1 school success factor. Make sure your child is in school, on time, every day.



2. Be a reading role model.

Let your child see you reading books, newspapers, and magazines. At dinner, talk about the interesting things you've learned.



3. Give your child a journal.

Encourage your child to use a diary or journal to write down his/her ideas, thoughts, dreams, and goals.



4. Talk about real world math.

Ask your child to help you figure out how much money to leave for a tip—or figure out which grocery item is the best value.



5. Promote responsibility.

Students must be responsible for keeping track of their own assignments, completing them accurately, and turning them in on time. Be supportive, but make the completion of homework your child's responsibility.



6. Set goals.

Goals give students direction and focus. Help your child set some goals for each term (e.g., get all As and Bs, have all homework done by 8:00).



7. Talk about growing up.

Students this age have a wide variety of maturity levels, with some students already showing signs of puberty. Talk to your child about how everyone grows and develops at their own pace.



8. Support decision-making skills.

Give your child increasing opportunities to make his/her own decisions (e.g., what clothes to wear, what sport to play).



9. Talk about tough issues.

As your child approaches middle school, it's important to discuss issues like peer pressure, bullying, drugs, and alcohol. Make sure your child knows where you stand on these issues.



10. Monitor screen time.

Set limits for the amount of screen time that's right for your child and family. Enforce these limits.

Helping your child have a successful year doesn't require doing extraordinary things. It's the little things you do each day that provide the guidance and support your child needs.