

Tips for Student Achievement

Enriching Experiences

10. Make it a point to have family meals together and discuss current events. Have a dictionary, globe, and an encyclopedia handy for reference.
11. Develop listening skills at home that can help in the classroom. Here is one way: Have family members close their eyes for two minutes and discuss every sound that they heard.
12. While solving puzzles or playing games, show your child how to use mental strategies, such as finding patterns, categorizing, guessing and checking, and making charts.
13. Make the kitchen a learning lab. Have your child read the steps of the recipe. Teach fractions with measuring spoons and cups, or cut a potato in half and fourths!
14. Use the TV as a learning tool. Make TV programs a jump off point to research ideas at the library. Also, show how commercials try to manipulate the masses.
15. Make the most of family travel time. Do crossword puzzles. Play Twenty Questions. Make up stories that can be continued by another family member. Count out of state license plates and find all 50!

Motivation: The Don'ts

16. Don't interrogate your child about what goes on at school as soon as he walks in the door - he is likely to regard it as an intrusion. Share something about your own day and wait for the child to follow the role modeling.
17. Never offer bribes for better performance. Don't give extra allowance for a good report card, or withhold allowance for a poor one. It simply confuses the issue.
18. Don't threaten - the tactic is ineffective. "If you don't pass, I'll ground you for a week" puts YOU, rather than your child, in control.
19. Don't take credit for your child's achievements. Instead of "I knew you could do it," say, "I'll bet you are proud of your hard work!"
20. Don't constantly push your child to top his previous achievements. If success brings pressure, your youngster may find it easier to fail!

