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Parent Power!

Tip #6: School support at home

Create a specific homework time. Will it be as soon as he/she come home? Will homework time start at 4:30 p.m.? Make sure the time is not too late.

Your child has been in school all day. Now it's time to go home and complete homework or read. Is there a place to do this? Can they watch TV and do it? There are some things that you can do to help your child do his/her best work.

Make sure that you or someone older is available to check the homework or to answer questions. There's no need to hover, just be around. Ask older kids to teach you something that they learned in class.

Create a specific homework place. This way your child knows it is not time to play. Is it at the dinner table, or a chair and table in their room? Take a look at the space in your home and designate a homework station.

Have school supplies at the homework station and buy an inexpensive pencil sharpener. FYI: the TV is not a school supply!

Use praise statements when your child does something great or meets your expectations. We all want to know we are doing a great job; kids need encouragement.

Show off the work! Put quality work or projects on the refrigerator, on the wall of the bedroom, or even in your room. Let him/her know that education is important to you and you are proud of them. Hype it up! Give your child a shout out on Facebook or Twitter. Brag to their teacher about the progress you've noticed.

Talk about their future and have something in the home to remind them. You may want to have a college mascot picture or display your achievements. Create a home that is supportive of education. Also, post pictures of what they want to become. . . a picture of a scientist, and engineer, a television producer, a psychologist. Remember, you have the power. You can create a home that helps your child succeed.

Parents, let's set high expectations, expose our kids to greatness and get engaged!