

# Ten ways to support learning at home

Getting a new school year off to a good start can influence children's attitudes, confidence and performance both socially and academically. Parents are their children's first teachers and are key to creating a home environment that helps a child succeed.



As families get back into the swing of school, here are 10 ways that parents can support learning at home.

1. **Have a special place where children can do their homework**, setting a "regular time and location."
2. **Keep books, magazines and newspapers available in your home.**
3. **Have simple art supplies on hand to spark creativity** – paints, markers, clay, ribbons, colored paper, musical instruments, etc.
4. **Read to your children and/or read with them every day.**
5. **Limit TV, computer and video games.** Assign specific times for TV watching as family entertainment and help your child select the right programs and movies.
6. **Take your child to the library.** Encourage your child to use the dictionary and the internet to find the meaning of words and resource information.
7. **Ask questions about school activities.** Ask "what are three new things you learned today?" rather than "how was school?" Engage in educational conversation by turning ordinary time together into "teachable moments."
8. **Be flexible and avoid making homework stressful** by finding positive ways to modify behavior.
9. **Encourage and praise your children;** celebrate their successes!
10. **Join your local PTA.** PTA connects families and schools, and joining PTA is a great way to become actively involved in your child's education. PTAs provide a range of programs and services for children and families, and is at the table when critical decisions are being made at your child's school.

Source: California State PTA School Smarts Parent Engagement Program

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