

FINDING TIME TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN LEARNING



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You know how important it is to take an active role in your child's education. You may be aware that research studies show that when parents are involved, teachers see a marked improvement not only in academic achievement but also in children's attitudes toward school.

Finding uninterrupted time to help your child can be difficult, however. So here are some ideas for taking advantage of the time you have. They are things you can do with your child as you run errands and complete household tasks.

Turn waiting time into reading time. While sitting in the doctor's office or waiting for some other appointment, read a book to your child.

- *As you run errands, discuss what's happening in school. Ask your child to tell you about the book he or she has read. Point out street signs and safety information.*
- *While watching a TV program together, discuss the show. Ask what your child liked best about the program. Compare the program to others the child enjoys. How is this show like those? How is it different?*
- *While grocery shopping, ask your child to find familiar words on signs and shopping displays. Discuss unfamiliar words. Have your child calculate change at the register.*
- *As you cook, ask your child to help you follow the directions in the recipe. Discuss what might happen if you added some more of one ingredient than the recipe called for or if you skipped a step.*
- *When sorting laundry, ask your child to help by placing dark clothes in one pile and whites in another. When putting clean clothes away, have your child match socks or sort underwear by size.*
- *Invite your child to hand you tools while you work on the family car or make a minor repair around the house. Talk about each chore as you complete it. Explain what you are doing and why. Be sure that your child understands its importance to the family.*

Finding time to do these things is never easy; we're all busy! But by making the most of the time you have, you can make a big difference in your child's attitude toward school and learning.