

GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

As a parent, you can make an enormous difference to your child's chances of success in school, at home and in their later life. Working in partnership with your child's school can help them to succeed.

When Parents Should Get Involved

- The earlier in a child's educational process parent involvement begins, the more powerful the effects.
- The most effective forms of parent involvement are those, which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home.

Type of Involvement

- Families whose children are doing well in school exhibit the following characteristics:
 1. **Establish a daily family routine.** Examples: Providing time and a quiet place to study, assigning responsibility for household chores, being firm about bedtime and having dinner together.
 2. **Monitor out-of-school activities.** Examples: Setting limits on TV watching, checking up on children when parents are not home,
 3. **Model the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work.** Examples: Communicating through questioning and conversation, demonstrating that achievement comes from working hard.
 4. **Express high but realistic expectations for achievement.** Examples: Setting goals and standards that are appropriate for children's age and maturity, recognizing and encouraging special talents, informing friends and family about successes.
 5. **Encourage children's development/ progress in school.** Examples: Maintaining a warm and supportive home, showing interest in children's progress at school, helping with homework, discussing the value of a good education and, staying in touch with teachers and school staff.
 6. **Read everything that comes into your house from the school.**
 7. **Talk to your student about school—every Sunday**

You can ask your child about Sunday school every Sunday. Simple questions such as "How was school today?" show them you care. Unfortunately, as children age, parents tend not to talk with them about school. By showing your children you are interested in their Islamic education, you will convey the message that Sunday school is a priority and should be treated that way.

If you show your children that their education is important to you, they will be more likely to take it seriously themselves. Making these easy changes, starting today, could just be the positive impact you wanted to make when it comes to your child's education to get involved. You may be surprised how much of a difference small changes can make.