

GreatSchools Top 10 Tips for Parents

Want your child to do well in school? Get involved with your child's education. Your actions today lead to your child's long-term success.

Here are ten practical ways you can get involved:

- 1 Meet the principal and teachers at the beginning of the school year. Tell them you expect your child to do well in school. (Research shows this simple conversation actually helps kids do better in school!)
- 2 Find out the best way to reach your child's teacher and tell him or her the best way to reach you (e.g. cell phone/ texting, email, phone call).
- 3 Go to back-to-school night and events at your child's school. Kids who see their parents at school get better grades.
- 4 Regularly check your child's backpack for notes, and keep track of homework.
- 5 Create a study space with good lighting and set a regular time for homework.
- 6 Help your child with his homework if needed, and always check it when he's done.
- 7 Read, read, read. Have your child read every day. Read to her, read with her -- and make sure your child sees you reading, as well.
- 8 Provide healthy food for every meal. Skip the sweets and soda – these foods don't help kids learn.
- 9 Make sure your child gets enough sleep. Kids ages one to three need 12 to 14 hours of sleep a night. Kids three to five need 11 to 13 hours. Kids five to 12 require 10 to 11 hours. Teens need at least 8 1/2 hours of sleep every night.
- 10 Go online to www.GreatSchools.org and get other ideas for helping you help your child be the best that they can be.

Script for PHAs: Overview of GreatSchools.org

What is GreatSchools?

For over a decade, GreatSchools.org has been helping parents choose the right school for their children, and support their children's education.

Who is the website for?

The site is for you and all other parents, grandparents, and caregivers looking for schools and ways to help children learn.

We have it all! Videos about helping with homework. Articles about protecting against bullies. Tips on getting free tutoring from your child's school.

How do you use GreatSchools.org?

- GreatSchools is easy to use.
- We have information on over 200,000 schools in the country.
- To find schools near you, go to www.GreatSchools.org and search using your city, address or just a zip code.
- You can check off the boxes for public, charter, or private schools and grade level (preschool, elementary, middle, or high school) to find the schools you want.
- Check out the schools and compare the schools on your list. Every school has a GreatSchools Rating from 1 to 10. Ten is the highest rating. Are there schools with better ratings than others on your list? This means students in those schools score higher on tests.
- Also, check out the community reviews. This is where you can get the inside scoop about a school from parents, teachers and students. These reviews are based on a 1 to 5 star rating.