

25 Tips to *Get Involved* in Your Child's Education



School-family partnerships contribute to academic success in Washington State. Become a partner with your child's school.

Make home a learning center

1. Read with your child every day, in English or your native language. If you don't feel comfortable reading, discuss picture books or photos, or have your child read to you.
2. Make a regular time and space for homework every day. Turn the TV off.
3. Know what your child is studying. Learn new things yourself.
4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep each night and eats a good breakfast before school.
5. Involve your family in community activities that expand on school learning.
6. Let your child know that you expect good work in school.

Communicate with the school

7. Inform the school of your child's needs and any changes in family circumstances.
8. Establish a communication system with your child's teacher and use it frequently.
9. Check your child's homework, attendance and academic progress often.
10. Respond to all messages from school.
11. Attend school meetings, events, and parent-teacher conferences.

Help the school

12. Work with teachers to find educational materials, enrichment programs for students, and funding.
13. If you can't volunteer at school during class time, ask the school for ways to help at home or on weekends.

14. If you have time, help the teacher in the classroom.
15. Recruit and train other families to form a volunteer group.
16. Help set up and manage a classroom phone tree or e-mail list.

Become a leader

17. Learn how the school system works and how to advocate for all children.
18. Be part of decision-making committees at school, organize a parent group in your school, or be active in your school's parent organization.
19. Take classes to develop your leadership skills.
20. Be a public supporter of education. Get informed about state and local education laws.

Help bring the community into the school

21. Encourage your school to provide all families with information about community services and resources.
22. If your school is diverse, find out which community organizations serve diverse cultural groups and help the school connect with them to provide services for families.
23. Arrange educational and cultural experiences for your child. Share these opportunities with other families and your child's school.
24. Help the school recruit and train community volunteers and mentors from diverse groups.
25. Thank local merchants and business people who support education and schools.

