

Tips to Help Your Child Succeed in School

- Encourage your child to read every day. Listen to your child read, spend time talking about stories and model good reading habits.
- Monitor your child's homework and review class work.
- Monitor TV viewing and video game playing.
- Talk positively with your child about school.
- Ask your child daily what he or she learned in school. Promote conversation. Be a good listener.
- Maintain high expectations of your child. Tell him or her everyday that he/she is the "best and the brightest." Also, remind your child daily to be kind and obedient. Give lots of praise.
- Encourage your child to work hard and stick to a task, even when it seems difficult.
- Communicate concerns about your child with teacher(s) or guidance counselor.
- Promote regular school attendance. Plan shopping trips, haircuts, even doctor appointments, if possible, after school hours.
- Send your child to school on time each day. Plan ahead the night before by organizing clothes, book bags, and homework.
- Promote healthy habits such as proper nutrition and adequate rest.
- Be supportive of after-school programs and special tutoring designed to get your child on or above grade level.
- Communicate through scheduled conferences with your child's teacher and guidance counselor. Ask for ideas on how to work with your child at home.
- Visit your child's classroom. Follow the school's security procedures when visiting the school.
- Make every effort to follow the chain of support if you have a concern about your child. Talk to the teacher before going to the principal. Meet with the principal before going to the superintendent.
- Volunteer your time. Your approved volunteer application must be on file at the school. Also, let the teacher know if you have an area of expertise that you could share with the class.
- Ask the school for help if needed. The school may be able to assist you or refer you to someone who can help.
- View the Sunshine State Standards at the Florida Department of Education Web site at www.firn.edu/doe/curric.prek12/index.html. This document lists learning goals for students in every grade.
- Ask the teachers about standardized testing and how you can help prepare your child.
- Inquire about local, state, and national requirements, such as the *No Child Left Behind Act*.
- Be familiar with school and classroom rules and expectations.
- Attend Open House, parent workshops, PTA meetings, etc.
- Ask school officials about adult community education offerings (including GED classes) for you and your child.