

About.com School-Age Children



Parent Involvement in Schools

Ideas for Supporting Your Child's Achievement in School

From [Kimberly L. Keith](#), former About.com Guide

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After many years of intense effort to increase parent involvement in schools, [the results are beginning to appear in the educational research](#). The news is good for schools where parent involvement is high, and the benefits for children are encouraging. When parents are involved in children's schools and education, children have higher grades and standardized test scores, improved behavior at home and school, and better social skills and adaptation to school.

When parents hear that they need to be more involved in their child's school, the first reaction is sometimes a sense of guilt that they aren't more active in the local Parent-Teacher Organization. If that motivates you to invest your time and energy into your local parent group, then you will certainly reap the benefits of that level of involvement in your child's education. But according to Joyce Pollard of the [Southwest Educational Development Library](#), the most valuable way you can become involved in your child's education is to provide a rich learning environment in your home to support your child's academic achievement. Other parent involvement activities that benefit children's educational development are to communicate with the teacher and school; discuss school activities with your child; and, monitor and supervise his out of school activities.

Research on the demographics of parents who are involved in their child's school finds that parents with higher educational attainment and income are attending school conferences, volunteering at schools, and supporting school events to enrich their children's learning achievement. Parents at all socioeconomic levels can "level the playing field" in their child's education by taking the time to get involved. Teachers give kids more attention when they know their parents from school visits. So, make it a priority to attend school events and meetings that will help you understand and support your child's education.

How can busy working parents be involved in their children's education? Get some quick ideas for ways to be involved with and support your child's elementary education.

Page 2 > [Learning Enrichment at Home](#)

Page 3 > [School Visits and Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

Page 4 > [Parents' Volunteer and Financial Support for Schools](#)

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