

10 Ways to Increase Your Child's Connection to School

1. Encourage your child to talk openly with you, teachers, counselors, and other school staff about any ideas, needs, and worries.

2. Find out what the school expects your child to learn and the appropriate behavior for school by talking to teachers and staff, attending school meetings, and reading information the school sends home. Support these expectations at home.

3. Help your child with homework, and teach your child how to use time well. Make sure the tools—books, supplies, a quiet place to work—needed to do homework are available.

4. Read school newsletters, attend parent-teacher-student conferences, and check out the school's website to learn what is going on at the school. Encourage your child to participate in school activities.

5. Meet regularly with your child's teachers to discuss grades, behavior, and accomplishments.

6. As time allows, help in your child's classroom, attend afterschool events, or participate in a school committee, such as a health team or parent organization.

7. Offer to share important aspects of your culture with your child's class.

8. If your first language is not English, ask for materials that are translated into the language you speak at home, and ask for interpreters to help you at school events.

9. Talk with teachers and school staff to suggest simple changes that can make the school a more pleasant and welcoming place. For example, the school might decorate the eating area with student-made posters, allow families to use the school gym or other facilities during out-of-school times, or create a place in the school or on school grounds for kids and families to socialize.

10. Ask whether your school or school district provides—or could offer— programs or classes to help you become more involved in your child's academic and school life. For example, the school or school district might offer training to help you talk with your child and to help manage his or her behavior; educational programs for parents by telephone or online; and/or General Education Development (GED), English as a second language, or other classes to help you work better with your child and with the adults at school.

TO DO LIST

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2. **MANY**
3. **THINGS**

