



CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE
Primary Project
BRINGING THE LESSONS HOME
for Families and Caregivers



Parents and caregivers play an important role in their children's learning. After all, parents are their child's first teacher! Even when our children enter their first formal school experiences, we can continue to be champions for their school success and work in partnership with teachers and administrators.

It is natural for families to want their children to do well in school, both academically and socially. Through guidance and support, families play a significant role in student learning.

The reality is, parents lead busy lives, juggling work, extracurricular activities, and managing a household. The list goes on! So how do we find this balance between the ever-growing to-do list while engaging in our children's learning, social, physical and emotional development? Below are some ideas for engaging with your child's school to support a strong partnership.

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF AND OTHER FAMILIES

Talk with teachers and/or the building principal to suggest simple changes that can make the school a more welcoming place for families. If a school has a PTSA or other parent organization, consider joining to advocate for change alongside other families. There is power in numbers!

COMMUNICATE CONSISTENTLY WITH THE SCHOOL AND READ THE INFORMATION YOU ARE PROVIDED FROM THE SCHOOL

- Stay informed through school newsletters and check out the school's website. Encourage your child to participate in school activities to help build a sense of connection with your community
- Attend parent/teacher conferences to learn more about your child's strengths and areas for growth in school. Communicate regularly with your child's teachers through email, phone calls, text messages or in person meetings to discuss the child's grades, behavior, and accomplishments. It can be intimidating to talk to teachers, but they want to hear from you just as much as you want to hear from them! When we work together in partnership, children succeed.
- If English is not your first language, advocate for translation services for communications and school events. Alternately, if English is your home language, consider advocating on behalf of others for translation services to be provided to all in the school community.

TAKE TIME TO VOLUNTEER OR PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- If your schedule allows, consider taking time to volunteer in the classroom, attend after school events, or join a committee such as a parent organization.
- If childcare is a barrier for attending school events for you or others, advocate for your school to provide childcare so that you can attend. Timing of events can also be a barrier for many families. Consider advocating for a mix of morning, evening, and weekend events so that more families are able to participate.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

Check in with your child regularly to understand how they are feeling about school. Here are some suggested questions to get the conversation going:

- What or who made you smile today?
- What book did your teacher read today?
- What was your favorite part of your school day?
- Did you help anyone in class today?
- Did someone make you laugh?
- Who sat next to you at lunch?
- Did anyone show an example of unkindness? What did you do?
- What examples of kindness did you see today?

Connect with your child's teacher about ways that you can support learning, concepts, or strategies at home.

Engaging in your child's school experiences is a win-win for all involved! You are your child's biggest fan and champion to make this the best school year yet!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CIPRIMARYPROJECT@CHILDRENSINSTITUTE.NET

www.childrensinstitute.net

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE IS AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Bringing the Lessons Home September 2024- English