

# How You Can Help at Home

Education begins and is nurtured in the home. Your support is the most important single factor in helping your child to be successful in school. There are many ways that parents/guardians can help assure that every day is a happy and productive one:

- **Make School Important** - Ask how school was every day. Convey your love of education and insist on good attendance and punctuality.
- **Develop a "School Checklist"** - Insure that your children leave for school and come home with everything they need.
- **Create a Study Routine** - Set a time and quiet place for your children to work every day. Have all study tools easily accessible. Allow study breaks every 20 minutes or so and provide healthy snacks.
- **Be Available** - When children are studying or preparing for tests, be available, but don't give answers to questions. Prompt children to get the answer on their own.
- **Recognize Learning Styles** - Not all children learn best in the same way. By identifying your children's learning styles, you can help them progress faster. Simple assessments are available in every good bookstore and on the Internet. Have fun giving one to your children, and then follow the directions on how to use the information it provides. For starters, consider the following differences in how people learn best:
  - Visual - learn best from seeing
  - Auditory - learn best from hearing.
  - Kinesthetic - learn best from touching, doing and moving.
- **Praise Success and Progress** - Shout "bravo" at every opportunity, whether for successes or small steps of progress. You may choose to reward with words of praise, small gifts or toys, hugs, dinner at a favorite restaurant or a special dinner at home. A "certificate of achievement" may please your youngsters. Use any award that has special meaning for them.
- **Read, Read, Read!** - Read with your children or have them read to you, every day. Make it fun by talking about what you have read.
- **Provide Learning Experiences** - Expose your children to learning experiences. This can include visits to museums, as well as having shelves filled with books and other learning materials at home.
- **Encourage Independent Thinking** - Allow your children to make mistakes and learn from their consequences.
- **Get Involved** - Meet with your children's teachers, attend school events and help out at school if you can.