



Tipsheet: Creating a Positive Learning Environment at Home

- 1. Be an example.**
Parents can help reinforce the learning atmosphere at home by showing curiosity in the world around them. Subscribe to newspapers and magazines and discuss topics. Encourage your child to form opinions regarding the topics you discuss.
- 2. Be reasonable and realistic.**
Being reasonable and realistic regarding your child's school performance may be critical to your child's academic success. Remember that not all children are destined for college. You are not a failure as a parent if your child receives "average" grades. Unrealistic academic goals pushed upon children by their parents can backfire into retaliation against parents even if the child is capable of higher performance.
- 3. Arrange for regular feedback from teachers.**
Talk with your child's teacher about receiving regular feedback on your child's progress and behavior. Support your child's teacher with involvement at home.
- 4. Praise your child.**
Praising your child in the presence of their peers can prevent some children from becoming disruptive in school to seek attention.
- 5. Punishment**
If children are punished at school for breaking rules, don't punish them again at home for the same infraction.
- 6. Study times**
Offer your child options as to when they want to work on their homework. Be clear that the option is not whether or not to do their homework but when they wish to do it. Support your child's choice by setting aside a place for homework. Try to be available during that time period to help your child with their homework if they have questions.
- 7. Teach study skills.**
Don't assume your child has learned study skills in school. Many teachers don't teach note-taking, efficient reading and test preparation. Help your child understand the difference between reading for knowledge and reading for pleasure.

Source: *Peaceful Parenting in a Violent World* by Joseph N. Cress, Ph.D. and Burt Berlowe

Resources: [United Way 2-1-1™](#) is a free and confidential, 24-hour information/referral line that can connect you to helpful programs and resources in our community. Just dial 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211.