

# Parent Involvement

## The Key to School Success

*"Research confirms that regardless of the economic, racial, or cultural background of the family—when parents are partners in their children's education, the results are improved student achievement, better school attendance, reduced dropout rates, and decreased delinquency."*

Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education of the United States



When you get involved with your children's education, everyone benefits. For one thing, getting involved sends an important message to your children: Education is important!

You're probably already doing more than you realize. After all, it's the little things you do each day that make the most difference.

**Home & School Connection** is pleased to offer you the following suggestions. We hope they will help you get even more involved with your children's education.

### FAMILY LIFE

Parent involvement begins at home. Here are some ways to strengthen family life *and* help your children be more successful in school.

♥ Eat together as a family whenever possible. A recent *Reader's Digest* survey showed that children whose families eat together at least four times a week

scored higher on academic tests than students whose families eat together less often.

♥ Play board games that build learning skills and are fun as well. For example, *Spill & Spell*, *Scrabble for Juniors*, and *Monopoly* improve vocabulary, concentration, math, and strategy skills. These are skills children need for school.

♥ Read to your children regularly—even for just five minutes—to strengthen reading, writing, and speaking skills. Whether you read aloud or listen while they take turns, it's a fact that reading improves achievement.

♥ Limit the amount of time your children watch TV and monitor what they watch. Select quality programs to watch together and talk about them afterward.

♥ Talk with your children about everything under the sun. They'll appreciate

the attention, and your conversations will do more to strengthen their language skills than anything else.

♥ Listening is also important. Try to answer your children's questions and encourage them to share their ideas and feelings.

♥ Set reasonable limits at home. Your children will deal more successfully with the limits set at school.

♥ Spend an hour or two each week enjoying a family outing. Nature walks are fun; so are trips to the zoo, museums, or library. Here's another idea: Pick up cans and bottles along the road and visit the recycling center.

♥ Good school attendance is as important for children as showing up for work is for adults. Allow your children to stay home only if they are genuinely sick. Pick up assignments if they are absent more than a couple of days.

♥ Most teachers believe that showing an interest in what children do at school is the most important thing parents can do to motivate their children.

