

Lead Your Child on the Path to Success

Parents are a child's first and life-long teachers. Everything you do at home to build children's literacy has long-term effects on how well children are prepared to succeed in school and in life. **Before the school year begins, find out about the school your child will attend:**

- Visit the school.
- Visit a classroom in the school.
- Get a copy of the current school year calendar.
- Volunteer at the school, for example, be a room parent, organize a winter coat drive, or help out in your child's classroom.
- Visit the school's website to get a copy of the school report card.

Communicate with Teachers:

- Find out the best way and time to contact them.
- Get the teacher's email address and phone number.
- Find out the websites where teachers may list class notes and homework assignments.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are Important:

- Be prepared to listen, talk and take notes.
- Write out your questions before you meet with the teacher.
- Ask for specific information about your child's work and progress, and ask to see examples of your child's work if not given to you.
- Review what the teacher has told you and follow up by talking with your child(ren).
- Check back with the teacher regularly to see how things are going as the year progresses.



This pamphlet was written to inform parents and educators in the local school districts about the importance of attendance. Each school district has its own policies. For more information on Attendance Policies in your school district, please contact the school your child attends.

This pamphlet was produced by the Attendance & Truancy Division of the Lake County Regional Office of Education. ATD is a program that serves Lake County, and is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education's Truant's Alternative & Optional Education Program (TAOEP). For more information, call (847) 223-3400, x223 or go to our website www.lake.k12.il.us.

Some of the information provided was developed and distributed by <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf> with permission to reproduce.



School Contact:

Parent's Guide

Parent Power

Build the Bridge to Success



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The elementary years are particularly important ones in children's schooling. This is the time that children acquire new skills and knowledge rapidly during these years. Research shows that the average annual learning gains for children in grades K-2 are dramatically greater than those for subsequent years of school. The skills your child is learning now, will be the foundation to their education in Middle School and High School.



In addition to the standard curriculum, Illinois is a leader in integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) into the student's education. They were the first state in the US to begin requiring schools to use a set age appropriate standard for social and emotional development. As the parent, you can help your child socially and emotionally by talking to your child about the changes in their life.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- Help your child organize a schedule
- Help your child set goals with a time for completing particular tasks
- Listen to what your child tells you and is really saying between the lines. Be sensitive to their fears. Reserve your comments and actions until you have facts about a situation and know how your child thinks and feels about it.
- Discuss peer pressure
- Communication is the key to being helpful to your child in the pre-teen years
- Welcome and get to know your child's friends
- Be aware of their physical and emotional changes

Know that School Counselors:

- Can help if there are problems at home, such as divorce or illness, which could affect your child's schoolwork.
- Have information about achievement tests and can explain what the results mean.
- Can tell you what tutoring services or after-school programs are available.

Make Sure your Child Reads:

Reading is an important part of school. The reading your child does now will help to

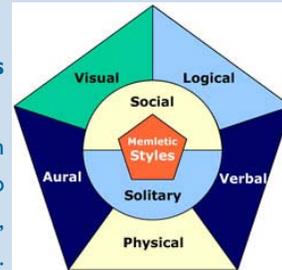
- ☆ Set a special time each day for reading aloud together, before bedtime is a great idea.
- ☆ Encourage your child to read to you when they are ready.
- ☆ Let your child see you enjoying reading.
- ☆ Use audio books that you and your child can listen to together and have your child follow along with the written words in the printed book.
- ☆ Play communication games with your child, such as Scrabble or Pictionary, which involve words and explaining what they mean.
- ☆ Practice day-to-day reading and writing, such as following a recipe or writing a note.
- ☆ Continue to check with the teacher and pediatrician about your child's language development.

What is Your Child's Learning Style?

A learning style is an individual's unique approach to learning based on strengths, weaknesses and preferences.

Today's educators are taught to anticipate and respond to a variety of student's needs in the classroom. To do this, they modify the curriculum using the different learning style's in order for all of the students to comprehend what is being taught. If you are aware of your child's learning style, you can better help them with their study skills at home. There are seven learning styles:

- ☆ **Visual Learners**—prefer the use of images, maps and graphic organizers to understand new information.
- ☆ **Auditory Learners**—best understand new content through listening and speaking in situations such as lectures and group discussions. Aural learners use repetition or music as study techniques. They benefit from the use of



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

tools that helps them remember information.

- ☆ **Verbal Learners**—have a strong reading/writing preference and learn best through words. These students may present themselves as good note takers or avid readers. They are able to translate abstract concepts into words and essays.
- ☆ **Kinesthetic Learners**—are hands-on learners. Learn best through figuring things out by hand (i.e. understanding how a clock works by putting one together).
- ☆ **Logical (Mathematical)** - prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
- ☆ **Social (Interpersonal)** - prefer learning in groups or with other people.
- ☆ **Solitary (Intrapersonal)** - prefer to work alone and use self-study.

If you want more information on how to help your child, go to:

- ☆ Illinois SEL Standards <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Social-Emotional-Learning.aspx>.
- ☆ Learning style quiz: <http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/?p=questionnaire>

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