



TRANSFORMING OUR ROLES AS CO-EDUCATORS

A parents guide to meaningful engagement
Workshop Three

Home-Based Engagement

- **Show that you think education is important**
 - It is important for your children to know that you are invested in their learning and you value their education.
 - When children know you care you give them a good reason to try hard and send a very critical message.
 - You can do many things to show your child that you value education.



Home Learning



- ❑ Review and practice what they've covered in class.
- ❑ Get ready for the next day's class.
- ❑ Learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer.
 - Use websites to find information about a subject.
- ❑ Explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits.
- ❑ Extend learning by applying skills they already have to new situations.
- ❑ Integrate their learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.

Homework



- Benefits of homework
 - Helps students to develop good study habits and positive attitudes.
 - Teaches them to work independently.
 - Encourage self-discipline and responsibility.
- Homework can help create greater understanding between families and teachers and provide opportunities for increased communication.
- Monitoring homework keeps families informed about what their children are learning and about the policies and programs of the teacher and the school.

Homework

- Many teachers often hear questions such as:
 - How can I get Michael to do his homework? Every night it's a struggle to get him to turn off the TV and do his homework.
 - Why isn't Maria getting more homework?
 - Why is Jonathan getting so much homework?
 - When is Suki supposed to do homework? She takes piano lessons, sings in her church choir, plays basketball and helps with family chores. There's hardly any time left to study.
 - How can I help Robert with his math homework when I don't understand it?
 - Do homework assignments really help my child learn?

- Have any of you had similar questions to the ones presented here?

Set a Regular Time for Homework

- Make a **regular time** for homework every day.
- The best schedule is one that works for your child and your family.
- What works well in one household may not work in another.
 - ▣ Be flexible to allow for after school activities and work schedules however, make a schedule and stick to it.
 - ▣ Avoid leaving home until right before bedtime whenever possible.

Pick a Place & Stick to it

- Your child's homework area doesn't have to be fancy.
 - ▣ A desk in the bedroom is nice, but for many children, the kitchen table or a corner of the living room works just fine.
- The area should have good lighting and it should be fairly quiet.
- Your child may enjoy decorating a special area for homework.
 - ▣ A plant, a brightly colored container to hold pencils and some favorite artwork taped to the walls can make homework time more pleasant.



Remove Distractions



- ❑ Turn off the TV and discourage your child from making and receiving social phone calls during homework time.
 - ❑ A call to a classmate about an assignment, however, may be helpful
- ❑ Some children work well with quiet background music, but loud noise from the CD player, radio or TV is not OK.
- ❑ If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time.
 - ❑ You may need to take a noisy toddler outside or into another room to play.
- ❑ If distractions can't be avoided, your child may want to complete assignments in the local library, or after school program.
 - ❑ Talk to your school about what is available.

Provide Supplies and Identify Resources

- Have available:
 - pencils
 - pens
 - erasers
 - writing paper
 - dictionary
- Other supplies that might be helpful include:
 - Stapler
 - paper clips
 - maps
 - calculator
 - pencil sharpener
 - tape
 - glue
 - paste
 - scissors
 - ruler
 - calculator
 - index cards
 - thesaurus
 - almanac
- If possible, keep these items together in one place. If you can't provide your child with needed supplies, check with her teacher, school guidance counselor or principal about possible sources of assistance.
- For books and other information resources, such as suitable computer Web sites, check with the school library or your local public library. Some libraries have homework centers designed especially to assist children with school).
- In many schools, teachers post information about homework assignments and class work on their own Web sites, which also may have an electronic bulletin board on which students can post questions for the teacher and others to answer.
- However, you don't have to have a computer in your home for your child to complete homework assignments successfully. Some schools may offer after-school programs that allow your child to use the school computers. And many public libraries make computers available to children.



Workbook...Suggest supplies

Use this suggest supply list and add any additional supplies requested by teachers.

Know How to Help



- Let's be honest most of have been out of school for a long time and things have changed!
- By middle school curriculums are becoming more complex
- Know what your child is studying. Learn new things yourself.
 - ▣ Ask your child what they are dong in class.
 - ▣ Explore programs to assist in helping your child in areas you are unfamiliar with at school and in the community.
 - Homework help
 - Tutoring
 - Staying after class

Talk with your child

- Yep! Talk easy!
- Explore different ways to engage in active conversation with your child about their day and school
 - ▣ What was fun?
 - ▣ What was the worst part of the day?
 - ▣ Did your teacher explain that math homework?
 - ▣ How did soccer go?

Work book...Communication Tips

Use the communication articles to help tailor meaningful communication with your children

“...Communicating effectively about school goes deeper than just asking the right questions. “**What are the goals of talking with kids about school and what is the role of the adult in these conversations?**” asks Diane Levin, Ph.D., professor of education at Wheelock College. “More than just finding out how their day was, we want to help kids become problems solvers and independent learners. **Good conversations help kids see we care about their lives**, that we are there to support them, and to help them develop strategies for solving problems themselves.”

Goal-Setting

- Setting goals is an important part of life that helps us achieve our dreams and desires.
- Set goals with your children.
- Use the following **10 tips** to help your children get on the goal-setting track



Goal-Setting

Tip #1

Make them **SMART** Make sure your kids' goals are:

- **Savvy** – Easy to understand and meaningful to them.
- **Measurable** – Define exactly what they want to accomplish.
- **Active** – Tell them what action they need to take.
- **Reachable** – Realistic, based on their skills and experience.
- **Timed** – Have a clear date when they'll be able to say, "I did it."

Goal-Setting

Tip #2

- Write them down. Have your kids write their goals and the date by which they want to achieve them on a piece of paper. Have them post it in their locker, on the computer, on the refrigerator or somewhere else they'll see it often.

Goals



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Goal-Setting

Tip #3



- Think positively. Attitude is everything when it comes to your kids' future success. Help them make a list of their good qualities, remember compliments and appreciate what they have. And remember to practice what you preach. If your kids see you with a can-do attitude, they'll be more likely to think positively

Goal-Setting

Tip #4

- Find time. Help your kids cut down on time wasters, like watching TV, surfing the Internet or talking on the phone, so they can free up time to focus on their goal.



Goal-Setting

Tip #5

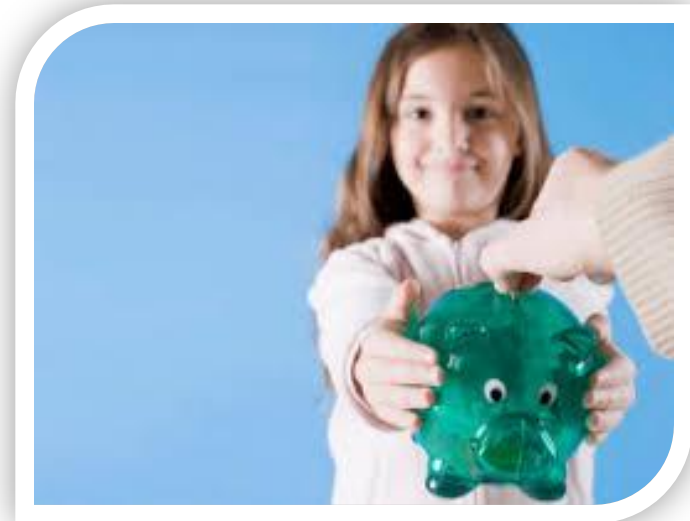
- Take 10. Set a kitchen timer or stopwatch for 10 minutes and encourage your kids to use that time to work on their goals. They may find themselves motivated to keep working on their goal even after the 10 minutes are up.



Goal-Setting

Tip #6

- Give a reward. When your kids take a step toward their goal, reward them with a movie, their favorite meal, a weekend off from their chores or another incentive that will keep them motivated.



- Visualize success. Minds produce what they dwell on. If your kids see themselves reaching their goals with ease, they'll be far more likely to succeed. Ask your kids questions at dinner or while carpooling to get them talking about their goals.

Goal-Setting

Tip #8

- Set "anti-deadlines."
These are the opposite of rewards. Have your kids tell themselves, "If I don't do it by 5 p.m. I can't go out with my friends tonight."



- Ask for help. Let your kids know they don't have to do it alone. Believe it or not, people in their lives (family, friends, teachers, coaches) will want to help in whatever ways they can. Do your part to help, as well. Offer to introduce them to a role model or take them on a field trip to learn more about a career in which they're interested.

Goal-Setting

Tip #10



- Be a role model. Incorporate goal setting in your daily life. Talk to your kids about your goals and the steps you take to accomplish them. If your kids see you following through on your commitments, they'll be more likely to do the same

Conversation Starters

- To get your kids thinking – and talking – about goals, try these conversation starters:
 - What matters to you more than anything else?
 - Which of your dreams gets you really inspired?
 - If you could do anything, what would it be? Why?
 - What's the biggest goal you ever reached? What was the key to your success?
 - How do you feel when you achieve a goal?

Success Starters

- While achieving goals often requires hard work, the process should be fun. Have your kids try these fun-raisers to jumpstart their success.
- Get pumped up.
 - Have your kids find someone they can count on to feed their ego when they need an emergency pick-me-up. Sometimes just hearing someone say "I believe in you" is enough to get them through the tough times.
- Throw a pity party.
 - Encourage your kids to invite their friends over for a pity party. Have each person designate a set amount of time during which he or she can complain, moan and groan to the others. When that person's time is up, move on by encouraging each other to get back on track.
- Be a blabber mouth.
 - Encourage your kids to spread the word to their friends and family. Telling others what they intend to accomplish will help hold them to their word.
- Try it on for size.
 - Just like they try on a new pair of jeans before buying them, have your kids try on their goals for size. If they want to be a singer, have them create a cover for their debut CD.
- Your kids are unstoppable as long as they keep taking the next step. Why wait one more day for them to begin? Get goaling!

Workbook... Goal-Setting

Use your workbook for templates and the tips to help goal-setting and monitoring strategies and activities.

Collaborate with the Community

- Involve your family in community activities that expand on school learning.
 - ▣ Ask the public library for upcoming events in your community.
 - ▣ Explore your Counties Parks and Recreation for Activities in your area.
 - ▣ The community is a great place to look for homework help and tutoring.
 - ▣ Boys and Girls Club

Transforming our Roles as Co-Educators:

A parent's guide to meaningful engagement

Mission: Increase student achievement by educating and empowering parents to become actively engaged in their children's education across grade levels.