

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lead Your Child on the Path to Success

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 school's parent involvement plan.
- ✓ Volunteer, for example, to be a room parent, organize a winter coat drive, help out on test day or be a reading coach.
- ✓ Ask the principal for the school's report card.



Communicate with teachers.

- ✓ Find out the best time to contact them by telephone.
- ✓ Ask for the teacher's e-mail address.
- ✓ Find out about Web sites 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.
- ✓ Review what the teacher has told you and follow up by talking with your child.
- ✓ Check back with the teacher regularly to see how things are going as the year progresses.

Know that 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; and
- ✓ Can tell you what tutoring services are available.

Make sure your child continues to read.

- ✓ Set a special time each day for reading aloud together.
- ✓ Encourage your child to read to you when he or she is 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 the pediatrician about your child's language development.



