

When parents and families get personally involved in their child's education, their children do better in school and grow up to be more successful in life.

Sounds like common sense, doesn't it?

Yet, parental involvement is one of the most overlooked aspects of American education today. The fact is, many parents don't realize how important it is to get involved in their children's learning.

All parents and family members should try to find time and make the effort because research shows that when families get involved, their children:

- get better grades and test scores,
- graduate from high school at higher rates,
- are more likely to go on to higher education,
- are better behaved and have more positive attitudes.

Parent involvement is also *one of the best investments* a parent can make. Students who graduate from high school earn, on average, \$200,000 more in their lifetimes than students who drop out. College graduates make almost \$1 million more!

What's most important is that *ALL* parents and families can enjoy these benefits. It doesn't matter how much money you have. It doesn't matter how much formal education you've had yourself or how well you did in school. In addition, parent involvement works for children at all grade levels.

What is Parent Involvement in Education?

Parent involvement can happen many different ways.

Parent involvement in education can mean: *Reading a bedtime story to your preschool child... checking homework every night...discussing your children's progress with teachers...voting in school board elections...helping your school to set challenging academic standards...limiting TV viewing on school nights...becoming an advocate for better education in your community and state...or insisting on high standards of behavior for children.*

Some parents and families may have the time to get involved. Others may only have time for one or two. But whatever your level of involvement, remember: *If you get involved and stay involved, you can make a world of difference.*

The New Jersey State Parent Information and Resource Center



The content of this document was adapted from "How Parents Can Help Their Children Do Better in School" from the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/PFIE/index.html>. This publication was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parental Information and Resource Center program, under Grant # 84.310A. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, any other agency of the U.S. government, or any other source. For free copies of this publication or for more information about parent involvement in

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