

A PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As parents, we are our children's first and continuing educators and play a very significant role in our children's health and development.

While being involved in school activities helps you to connect and also benefits the school, the key to making positive change in your child's academic achievement is becoming an active partner in their learning and wellbeing.

There is strong evidence that parent engagement (of various kinds) has a positive impact on important indicators of student development and achievement like:

- School attendance
- Adapting to school and social skills
- Engagement in school work
- Behaviour
- Grades and test scores
- Enrolment in higher level programs and advanced classes
- Successful completion of classes
- Lower dropout rates
- Graduation rates

The key is to get involved in supporting learning outcomes in your home and sustain this engagement through all stages of their development.

There are many ways you can extend your children's home and school based learning. Research points to these:

- Believe in your child's potential
- Engage in relevant conversation and help to give meaning to concepts and things that are happening in the world
- Provide a home environment that supports study and the importance of learning
- Talk about different ways to learn
- Encourage practise and persistence
- Realistic but high expectations on their studies and in other ways
- Assist with routines and healthy boundaries for work, social, online and play
- Build partnerships that can assist their learning - home to school and school to home
- Mentor healthy behaviours and good habits

Formal schooling plays a big part in children's learning. One of the best ways to be engaged and support the stages and phases of your child's life is to develop good relationships with your child's school and teachers and embrace them as important partners in your child's life.

Building healthy home school partnerships that extend your child's learning take time and commitment but prove very effective both for your child and the family. It takes commitment and time to build positive partnerships that support and extend children's learning. When schools and families work together, students of all ages benefit.



Research concludes that parent engagement in learning is most effective when it is focused on creating positive attitudes towards learning and education in our children, building their motivation and confidence as learners, and fostering their enjoyment of learning.

For more information visit: www.austparents.edu.au