



Family & Educator Partnership



How can I help my child with school?



According to Dr. Karen Mapp, with the Institute for Responsive Education, more than 30 years of research tells us that when families are interested and involved in their children's education, students are the winners and schools benefit.

There is a strong link between family involvement and

- Higher grades and test scores,
- Better school attendance,
- Higher graduation rates,
- Greater enrollment in education after high school, and
- More positive attitudes about school.

There are many ways for families to be involved. When families talk about the importance of learning and show respect for school staff, this supports the student's learning. The biggest impact for students comes when parents help students with their learning at home. This includes providing a place to do homework and time set aside in the family schedule to do homework. It makes a difference when parents ask about schoolwork and have conversations with students about what they are doing at school.

Some of the things you can do to help this school year get off to a good start are:

- Meet your child's teacher(s)
- Talk to the teacher(s) about what your child will be learning this year
- Find out from the teacher the best way to stay in touch, and how to reach him/her if you have questions
- Ask your child about what he/she is doing in school frequently
- If your child asks for homework help that you cannot provide, talk to the teacher or school administrator about someone who might be able to help your child or help you help your child.

Children of all ages, including adolescents, benefit when families and schools work together. There are almost as many ways for families to be involved as there are students. For more ideas about how you can be involved in your local school, talk to your principal.

Resources on family involvement strategies and effective programs, are available through the Central Rivers AEA Family and Educator Partnership (FEP). Contact FEP Coordinators: Loni Jorgenson 641-355-4242/ 800-392-6640 or April Wooldridge 641-485-9166/ 641-753-3564/ 800-735-1539 for additional information.



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