

Helping Children Learn®

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
Defiance City Schools



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'Coach' your elementary schooler to a strong school performance

An effective coach is someone who guides, encourages and inspires. When you play this role for your child, you help motivate your elementary schooler to persevere, try new things and find answers.



To be a coach for your child:

- **Serve as a resource.** Completing schoolwork is your child's responsibility. But you can offer encouragement, answer questions and suggest places to look for additional information, such as a website or educational video.
- **Show enthusiasm** for the things your child is learning. Emphasize that knowledge is the goal of education. Also discuss the learning process, which includes hard work, persistence and making steady progress.
- **Encourage investigation.** There may be times when you are not familiar with the material your student is learning. If your child comes to you with a question, it's OK to say, "I never learned that. How could you find out? Let's try looking online or in your book."
- **Recognize your child's strengths** and weaknesses. Some students excel in math, but need help with writing, for example. Support and encourage your child's best effort in every subject, but do not expect the same level of performance in each.

Source: K.T. Alvy, Ph.D., *The Positive Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful Children, Birth-Adolescence*, Teachers College Press.



Raise your child's awareness of others

An ability to understand other people and think about their feelings will help your child form solid connections with classmates and teachers. This ability also helps students consider situations from other points of view, cooperate and problem-solve—skills that lead to success in school and beyond.

Help your child learn to:

- **Think about what others** might need or want. "It's great that you and your friends like playing tag together every afternoon. But what about the new kids in the neighborhood? How do you think they feel watching you play? Do you think they would like to be included?"
- **Realize that people** may respond differently under similar circumstances. Something that excites your child may make someone else nervous.
- **Respond appropriately.** Your child could return a smile with a smile, listen if the person wants to talk, or suggest an activity to take the person's mind off worries.

Just how long will it take?

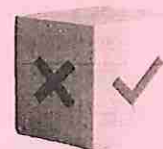
To manage time responsibly, your child needs to understand how much time tasks take to do. Have your child:



1. **Estimate** how many minutes it will take to complete a task.
2. **Track** the time it actually takes to carry out the task.
3. **Compare** the estimate to the real time.
4. **Write down** the task and the time it takes to refer to next time.

Help your child learn from mistakes on graded work

After receiving graded schoolwork back from the teacher, some students never look at it again. But there is still learning to be done! Help your child:



- **Identify and correct** wrong answers.
- **Figure out** what type of errors were made. Most mistakes are due to either carelessness or lack of preparation.
- **Plan changes.** To reduce careless errors, your child could double-check answers before turning them in. If lack of preparation is the problem, your child can ask the teacher questions if the material is confusing and schedule more study time.

Instill positive values

Teaching your child values at home helps create a positive culture at school that improves learning. To get the lessons across:

1. **Discuss the values** that matter to your family—honesty, fairness, diligence, etc.
2. **Set standards** for behavior. Expect your child to tell the truth, to be kind to others and to see tasks through to the end.
3. **Be a role model.** Your child learns to behave by watching you.