

Dear Parents,

Parents' support is crucial to children's education

There is increasing evidence that achievement at school is much higher when parents are involved in their children's education. You as parents are the first source of support, guidance and motivation for your child, and can help to bring out the best in them.

However, it is becoming apparent that because of busy work schedules, some parents leave their children's education to teachers – and some are willing to pay a high price for private tutors to support their education. While their intentions are good, is this enough to ensure their children's success?

Helping Your Child Succeed at School

There are many ways in which you can help your child succeed. Start with sharing your ideas about the importance of education with your child. Talk about links between what your child is learning today and how that knowledge might be used in the future. Begin to talk about possible education goals for your child. If you begin to think about goals, your child will, too. Get them excited about their future. Let them dream and support their dream. Help them find what they are good at, their gift, and nurture it.

However, be careful not to pass on negative attitudes about school that may be a part of your own past experience. Without realizing it, you could start your child off on the wrong foot by recalling bad memories from your own school days. Giving children the idea that school is too difficult, that teachers are unfair, or that school is not important will discourage them from doing well. Instead, talk about your friends from school, your favorite teachers or your best subject. If school was a bad experience for you, you might tell them you made the mistake of not liking school and you do not want them to do the same.

A positive attitude about school is perhaps the most important gift you can give your child.

Help your child set education goals, both short term and long term. Tell your child you know they will be successful in school. Do not dash their dreams whatever they may be!

Talk to your child about what they are learning at school. This is so important. From Preschool to Secondary school, it is important to ask your child about their class work —questions that cannot be answered with a “yes” or “no.” Share any knowledge you have, and if you are curious, read the textbook! Let them talk about what they learnt. Get them excited about it.

Help your child get organized to do homework. Create a study area or corner for homework. You can start this as early as year 1, and it becomes more important as more homework is set. Have a table and chair in a quiet place away from the TV, perhaps in the corner of a bedroom. Add a lamp, if needed. Add a box for books and supplies. Make a special trip to the shops with your child to buy supplies such as

paper, pencils, and colored pens. Let them choose. As your child gets older, buy them a clock. Help keep this area tidy and ready for use. Make them feel really important – it is their own space!

Have a place to keep all communications from school. BISAK is making an effort to keep in better touch with you as parents. Some communication is on paper and is sent home with your child. Other communication may be by email. Teach them how to use the website and how to navigate it. Let your child know that these communications from school are important to you. Read them with your child

Try to keep noise down during study times and show respect for their study time.

Ask what homework your child has been assigned and become interested in it. Do not be a tyrant about homework – it should be fun. The goal is for your child to be responsible for getting it done without excessive pressure. Help if you are asked, and do not feel bad if you are unfamiliar with a subject. It actually makes them feel important. Do not be tempted to do it for them! Make homework interactive and fun.

Research shows that students who get good grades are those whose parents talk to them regularly. The message behind this; try to eat one meal seated together and talk about what is going on at school – this is a good start.

Help your child succeed at school—work with the teacher! One reason parents say they do not know how to help their children at school is because schools have changed so much since they were students. Accept change and communicate with the teacher if you feel you need more information.

Subject matter and teaching methods are different and unclear to many parents. Student learning patterns have also become much more visual and fast-paced with the advent of the internet, television and video games.

BISAK wants to work with both teachers and parents for the good of the your child. Much of what is needed between the parent and the teacher is good communication. By being open minded and willing to try new ways, you will help your child succeed in school. In fact just showing constant interest will help your child develop a healthy self esteem.

Regards

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Principal