

To summarise, increased parental involvement benefits the children, parents and the school.

Benefits for the Children

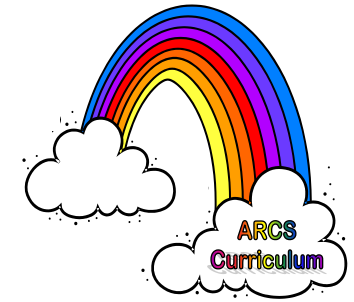
- Children tend to achieve more, regardless of ethnic or racial background, socioeconomic status, or parents' education level
- Children achieve better grades, test scores, and attendance
- Children have better self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, and show higher aspirations and motivation toward school

Benefits for the Parents

- Parents have a better understanding of the teacher's job and school curriculum
- Parents' perceptions of the school are improved, and there is stronger ties and commitment to the school
- Parents increase their interaction and discussion with their children and are more responsive and sensitive to their children's needs

Benefits for the School

- Consistent parent involvement leads to improved communication and relations
- The school acquires a better understanding of families' cultures and diversity, and they form deeper respect for parents' abilities and time
- Schools that actively involve parents and the community tend to establish better reputations in the community



Evelyn C.P. School

Parental Involvement - How You Can Help Your Child

*“ At the end of the day, the most
overwhelming key to a child's success is
the positive involvement of parents”
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‘Inspiring minds - striving for excellence - nurturing dreams’

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Research has revealed the following:

In the early years, parental involvement has a significant impact on children's cognitive development and literacy and numeracy skills.

Parental involvement in a child's schooling, for a child between the ages of 7 and 16, is a more powerful force than family background, size of family and level of parental education.

Educational failure is increased by lack of parental interest in schooling.

Many parents want to be involved in their children's education. In a recent study in England 72% of parents said that they wanted more involvement.

In a study designed to test whether the educational performance of children was influenced by parents, the research found that children were disadvantaged not by social class, but rather by lack of

Reading

Early reading experiences with their parents prepare children for the benefits of formal teaching. Parents who introduce their babies to books give them a head start in school and an advantage over their peers throughout primary school.

Involvement with reading activities at home has significant positive influences not only on reading achievement, language comprehension and expressive language skills but also on pupils' interest in reading, attitudes towards reading and attentiveness in the classroom.

Although parental involvement has the greatest effect in the early years, its importance to children's educational and literacy continues into the teenage and even adult years.

There is ample evidence that parents who promote reading as valuable and worthwhile have children who are motivated to read for pleasure.

- Try to read a variety of texts with your child as well as their school reading book
- Ask your child questions about their reading
- To help with speaking and listening skills, ask your child to retell one of their favourite stories. Encourage them to do this fluently and with expression
- Reading to your child is equally beneficial. Not only is it enjoyable, but it increases a child's vocabulary and you act as a positive role model

Further Reading

The following documentation is available in school to help support parents:

- 'I Love Reading' and 'Looking at Non-Fiction With Your Child'
- Parent Handbook
- Student Exit Profile
- Mastery Booklets
- Changing Mindsets
- Guidance on achieving the Gold Behaviour Award

The Parts of a Parent Reader

A Smart Mind,
to understand
the importance of
reading
with their child daily.

Eyes,
for seeing their child
and showing how
engaged they are.

A Mouth,
for reading books
to their child,
20 minutes
every day.

Ears,
to listen to
their child's
questions.

A heart,
to love and
desire a good
education for
their child.

Hands,
for hugging
their child
close while
reading a
favorite
book.

Books,
to share every day
with their child
to build their
language and
literacy.

Feet,
for walking to the
library each week to
discover new books.



Did you know that children spend just **26%** of their waking year at school? That means for the remaining **74%** of their waking time, they are in the care of parents or others.

To emphasise this further; from a total of 8760 hours in a year, children are in school for a mere 1140 hours.

The importance of parents and carers in a child's development cannot be overstated. The school and the parents all have crucial roles to play and the impact is greater if both work in partnership.

There is no universal agreement on what parental involvement is, however there are two broad strands. Parents' involvement in the life of the school and their involvement in support of the individual child at home and at school.

This booklet explains some of the ways that parents (and other carers, grand parents etc.) can support their child and become involved in their learning. Your child's teacher will be able to provide further information and there is documentation available from the school office if you would like to research further.



Ways You Can Help

Attitude to School and Learning

In school we always model a positive attitude to learning and encourage the children to have a growth mind set. We use phrases such as 'I'm learning to...' and 'I can't do it yet' to help pupils appreciate that we are all learners.

All staff know the importance of a friendly smile and taking some time to talk with a child. We never miss an opportunity to have a conversation and to give everyone an opportunity to talk.

As parents, think about your attitude to school and the language and enthusiasm you use with your child.

- Set a good example by ensuring punctuality and attendance
- Support your child in being prepared for lessons. Do they have their reading book, library book, PE kit, homework, response slips, money, costume etc?
- Ask them about their day and take an interest in their work
- Discuss the importance of learning. Appreciate that not everyone learns at the same rate or enjoys the same lessons.
- Emphasise our school rule of 'respect'. If we wish our children to understand and display this value, it is vital they see it in all aspects of their lives.
- Celebrate achievements with your child. These may range from winning an award, to learning a times table or eating all their lunch.

Supporting Events

We appreciate that it can be difficult to attend school events. We try to accommodate this by offering a range of times and opportunities to visit the school across the year, such as; Inspire afternoons, Class Information meetings, Family Assemblies, Parents' Evening, Stay and Play sessions, Achievement Assemblies, workshops, fairs and concerts.

Times Tables

Your child will have specific and appropriate times tables for their age group. Practise and repetition is the key to learning these and to ensure they are learnt in and out of order. Just a few minutes will be a big help.

Talk Cards

These were introduced as an alternative to written homework and to help encourage conversations in families. The responses have been very positive. Here are a few comments from parents:

- 'Really good for topics that you wouldn't ordinarily discuss'
- 'A great way for children to express themselves'
- 'Using the cards encourages you to talk about new subject matter and, as a parent, to listen carefully to your child'
- 'Quite often it lead to us looking something up'
- 'Talking as a family about subjects we may not have usually spoken about'
- 'It was more like a game than typical 'homework'

Talk Cards ask global/pshe, cultural and entrepreneurial questions. Please ask your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Homework

Your role as a parent:

- Ensure your child completes their own homework, and that you offer them support and encouragement
- Encourage them to check their work when they have finished
- Provide them with a quiet workspace to complete their homework
- Talk about their homework with them – take an active interest in what they are doing
- Encourage and praise their effort throughout the activity and once it is completed
- Try to encourage independence as your child becomes older