



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
“Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success”

Five Key Skills for Academic Success

It's never too early or too late to help your child develop the skills for academic success. Learn how to build these skills and stay on track all year long.

It takes a combination of skills organization, time management, prioritization, concentration and motivation to achieve academic success. Here are some tips to help get your child on the right track.

Talk to your child. To find out which of these skills your child has and which he can develop further, start a simple conversation that focuses on his goals. Ask him about his favorite subjects, classes he dreads and whether he's satisfied with his latest progress report.

Listen for clues. Incorporate your own observations with your child's self-assessment. Is your child overwhelmed by assignments? She may have trouble organizing time. Does your child have difficulty completing her work? She may get distracted too easily. Is your child simply not interested in school? He/She probably need help getting motivated.

1. Learn about your child's progress. It's important to find out how your child is progressing academically as well as how he interacts with his peers, if he participates in class and if he is well behaved. Listen carefully to what your child's teacher says, and ask yourself if you note similar patterns at home. If your child is in middle or high school, ask about whether he is on track for college.
2. Share your insights with your child's teacher. A conference is a good opportunity to hear from your child's teacher, but it's also a perfect time to share your perspective. Remember, you know your child best. You can give the teacher valuable information that could help your child learn more effectively.
3. Be informed about the achievement scores for your child's school. In this age of standards and accountability, test scores are increasingly important. To find the test scores for your child's school, go to *GreatSchools.net's* school's profile and type in the school name. If the scores are strong, ask how the school is working to keep students on track. If the scores are low, ask what the school is doing to raise achievement and how you can support learning at home.
4. Discuss your child's strengths and challenges. Through comparing areas where your child excels with areas in need of improvement, you can identify ways to support your child's learning at home.
5. Ask questions. This is one of the most important aspects of a successful conference. Here are some key questions to get you started:

Prepared By: Wanda Burke, Specialist-Youth Development

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How much time should my child spend on homework each night?



Does the teacher's estimate match with what you see your child doing at home?

If it doesn't, share your observations with your child's teacher to generate possible solutions.

How can I reinforce classroom lessons at home?

Ask the teacher about activities, games or other strategies that you can use to further your child's learning at home.

How can I stay connected?

Find out ways to keep track of your child's progress, assignments and activities.

Is there a system in place for parent communication or involvement?

Discuss the best ways to stay current. Do your best to make the most of your parent-teacher conference or back-to-school night. The more informed you become, the better you, your child and your child's teacher can work together as a successful team.

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