

Getting Children to Study: An Old Problem

Since time began, parents have been trying to get their children interested in working and learning at home and school. Certainly, some parents are more successful than others. In addition, many parents have been asking for advice from teachers, counselors, and administrators regarding how to get their children to study. The truth of the matter, unfortunately, is that parents can't make their children study.

However, parents can provide the proper example, the words of

urging, and an atmosphere conducive to studying. If children are not provided with all three, the chances grow smaller that they will study at home. Therefore, let's discuss how parents can provide these necessities.

First, remember that it is not easier for a child to study with a radio, television or CD player continually on in

Ways to provide an atmosphere which encourages study...

the home. Sometimes children would like us to believe the myth that they actually work more effectively with TV. Yet this is simply not true. We need only our own level of concentration to be aware of this reality. For instance, can you read a serious book while there is a lot of noise around you? Most people can't. Therefore, it must also be true that children can't study academics amid excessive noise and absorb what they are studying. That's why we need to insist that children study in a quiet place.

Second, we ought to furnish our children with a place of their own in which to study. If there are other children in the home, it's our responsibility to keep them away for the studying student. Remember, any distraction is detrimental to the concentration necessary for learning academic lessons. Therefore, we need to consider furnishing our children with a desk or table with ample lighting and room for them to spread out the necessary books and papers, and then go to work.

Third, we need to try to set a consistent time of day for homework and then reinforce this schedule. Above all, we need to know that simply saying, "Do your homework" is often not enough impetus.

Forth, we need to develop a learning atmosphere in the home. This can be a very big job. However, children need our help in order to develop good study skills. For instance, we may want to start the dinner table practice in which the children take turns telling something new they learned that day. Likewise, we may have them describe the work which they need to complete for the next school day to stay abreast of the requirements of their subjects. And we can do the same regarding our work.

Furthermore, we need to be aware that it always pays to set an example for children. They need to see us reading in a quiet place or working on the household budget in an orderly fashion. In addition, we should ask to look at written work before it's taken back to school. This demonstrates the prudent habit of reviewing work before turning it in, and shows that we care about them and the work they have

done. Remember, children learn from example; they are always watching to see if we do what we tell them to. If we don't practice what we preach, changing our children's behavior is difficult. With these guidelines in mind, we may find that our children begin to study more and more. And at some point, we may not recognize our old children in the new ones.

