

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORTING CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL?

Alberta School Act Section 16.2 Parent Responsibilities

It is important that parents be aware of parent responsibilities outlined in the Act, section 16.2: A parent of a student has the responsibility

- (a) to take an active role in the student's educational success, including assisting the student in complying with section 12,
- (b) to ensure the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (c) to co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the student,
- (d) to encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
- (e) to engage in the student's school community.

School Act – Section 16.2 <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/acts/s03.pdf>

HOW CAN A PARENT INFLUENCE HIS/HER CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL?

The evidence is now beyond dispute. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to:

1. create a home environment that encourages learning;
2. express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers;
3. become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.
4. Here are some ways you can support your child's learning.
 - a. Make sure your child gets the most out of the school day by helping him/her to arrive at school on time, healthy, and well rested.

- b. Parental involvement needs to begin with communication between you and your child's teacher or administrator by visiting the school, phoning, or writing a note.
- c. Encourage your child to take part in school activities and to take pride in the school community, including the school building and grounds.
- d. To reinforce self-esteem, encourage your child through listening and talking. Show interest and appreciation for his/her efforts. Ask specific questions like, "What did you do in science today?"
- e. Get to know your child's friends.
- f. Attend school events such as orientation nights, parent/teacher interviews, special events, and extra-curricular activities.
- g. Help in the classroom, on field trips and on committees when volunteers are requested.
- h. Read your school newsletter and school correspondence.
- i. Read to or with your child regularly from a wide variety of materials.
- j. Make sure school work is a priority, i.e. before chores or social activities.
- k. Encourage your child to talk to teachers if he/she does not understand an assignment.
- l. Keep up-to-date on your child's progress between reporting periods.
- m. Be knowledgeable about what your child is learning by using this curriculum summary and other information provided by the school.