

Discipline is constructive guidance providing positive guidelines to help your child now and later. That's not an easy job. You will, at times, lose your temper and do things you wish you hadn't. But if those times are few with only temporary setbacks, you will still accomplish a great deal.

If a student misbehaves in school, it may be a carry-over from something that happened at home – just as a blow-up at home may have started at school. That's why everyone on the school staff wants to keep in touch with you about school problems, school policies – and especially your child.



Discipline:

An Important Way to Show You Care



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What Your Son/Daughter Needs

- **Reasonable Academic Standards**
The assumption is that students need to be pushed – that they are not performing to ability. Although that may be true for many, others push themselves too hard, and that can be just as damaging. Parents need to be sensitive to their child’s abilities and attitudes.
- **Consistent Guidelines for Behavior**
Students must accept responsibility for their actions.
- **Respect**
Young people feel respected when parents listen, share feelings and explain the rationale for decisions
- **Positive Peer Pressure**
Respect the fact that peer pressure exists, but tell your children when you think pressure is leading them in the wrong direction – and why. Foster relationships that are positive.

Tips to Help Guide Your Children to Success

- Keep cool. Don’t lose your temper. Children need to know that you are in control.
- Be a model. Lead by example.
- Be a parent. Children need parents to be responsible adults, not “buddies.”
- Encourage your children’s respect for authority.
- BE FIRM, FAIR, AND CONSISTENT!
- Impress on children the importance of not repeating unacceptable behavior.
- “Do it or else” doesn’t work with today’s children.
- Be involved, interested and concerned. Then, and only then, can your children get the most out of the caring that teachers give them.

Discipline & School: How You Can Help

- **Understand the School’s Discipline Code**
Most schools have a written discipline policy that outlines unacceptable behavior and establishes consequences. Support that policy.
- **Encourage Regular Attendance**
Understand the attendance policies of the school . Academic standing may be affected by absences. Check to see that your child makes up any work missed during an absence. Recognize that frequent absences may often be a sign of other problems.
- **Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences**
Look at conferences as an opportunity to:
 - Learn what is happening and how you can help.
 - Provide information to help the teacher work with your child.
 - Ask about the grading system. How are they determined?
- **Work With Teachers**
Teachers welcome the interest and support of parents.

Conference Tips

- Contact the teacher beforehand.
- Listen with an open mind.
- Share your feelings and concerns calmly.
- Remember that your goal is to resolve the problem, Not to fix blame.
- If you feel that the problem has not been resolved to your satisfaction, ask for a joint conference with a guidance counselor or the principal. Cooperation between school and parents makes the job easier for everyone.