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AS WE CONTINUE DISTANCE LEARNING, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING A MASK WHEN ON THE P.T. COE CAMPUS

Estimate everything!

Weave estimation into daily life to build your youngster's math skills. While cooking, you might ask, "How many cherry tomatoes do you think are in that container?" Or in a waiting room, challenge her to estimate the number of ceiling tiles. Have her count to check. The more she practices, the better she'll get at estimating.

Take initiative

Part of developing initiative is learning to recognize what needs to be done. Instead of guiding your child through each step in a task, get him in the routine of figuring out what to do next. If he's clearing the table and forgets to wipe it off, say, "Take a look at the table—what's the last step?"

Family fire drills

Use some family time to create a fire escape plan with your youngster. Encourage her to draw a map of your home with two exits per room and a meeting place outside. Then, hold a fire drill. Note: Studies show that many kids sleep through smoke alarms, so be sure your plan includes waking everyone up.

Worth quoting

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."
Chinese proverb

SECRETS OF BETTER BEHAVIOR

It's no secret that parents want their children to behave appropriately. But what really works? Try focusing on teaching your child to behave rather than punishing him for misbehavior, and you're likely to see better results. Consider these tips. Be a mirror Your youngster looks to you for guidance, so model the behavior you expect. For example, if he sees you staying calm when you're angry, he'll be less likely to throw fits when he's upset.



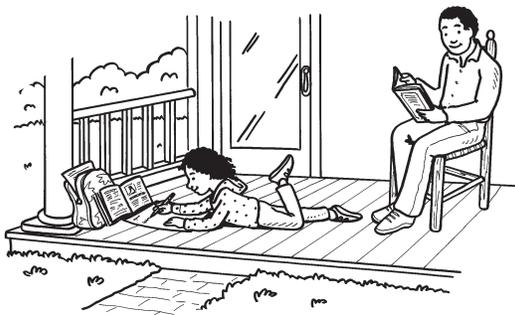
Talk through your actions, too. You might say, "I had a stressful day at work. I'm going to relax with my book for a little while so I'm not cranky." Make rules together Children find it easier to remember and follow rules that they have a role in creating. Sit down together, and write a list. Be sure your youngster understands the reason behind each rule. For instance, ask, "Why shouldn't we leave things on the stairs?" (Because someone could trip and fall.) Tip: If you need to add or change a rule, include him in that discussion, too. Highlight success When you praise your child, emphasize the good feelings he gets from behaving well. Saying "You must be proud of yourself for waiting so patiently" gives him a sense of accomplishment. That feeling of pride will motivate him to repeat the behavior in the future.

HOMWORK SOLUTIONS

Whether your child is new to homework or has been doing it for years, your support can help them do their best. That's important, because homework reinforces what they're learning in school. Here's how to set them up for success.

Find a good schedule

Set aside a specific time for homework so it becomes a habit, perhaps right before or after dinner. Also, suggest that they figure out a plan that works best for them. They could start with the easiest assignment to gain momentum or get the hardest one out of the way first. **Eliminate distractions**



Make sure your child turns off electronics before he/she starts homework. Also, you might encourage everyone in the house to have "quiet time" while they do their assignments. Maybe you'll read or pay bills while younger siblings color, for instance. **Troubleshoot problems.**

When your youngster gets stuck, offer to help—but avoid telling them the answers. If they're confused by the directions, try reading them together. Or if they're struggling with an addition problem, offer to walk them through a few sample problems in the back of their math book.

BE A TRUE FRIEND

Children who form friendships with classmates tend to do better in school. Inspire your youngster to "treasure" his friends with this writing activity.

1. Draw: Have him draw a treasure chest on a sheet of paper and make "coins" by cutting circles out of yellow paper.
2. Identify: Take turns naming things you each value in a friendship. Examples: Being loyal, enjoying the same things, helping each other. Your child can write each idea on a separate coin.
3. Discuss: Let him glue the coins onto his treasure chest. As he adds each one, you can both share real-life examples from your own friendships.

Your youngster might say, "Raul and I like to read together at language arts time," and you could say, "My friend Jess helped us by bringing meals over after your sister was born." Hang up his treasure chest as a reminder of qualities he'll look for in his classmates—and will remember to show in himself.



THE PARENT-TEACHER TEAM - Q&A

Q: I want to be more involved in my daughter's education. Where should I start?

A: Teaming up with your child's teacher is a great way to get started. Send the teacher a nice email, perhaps about a classroom activity your daughter enjoyed, and let him know you'd like to stay in touch throughout the year. You might ask if you can volunteer in the classroom or from home. Also, look over papers the teacher sends home. You'll see how your child is doing in various subjects. Then, if she's struggling with anything, you can reach out to the teacher for advice. Finally, tell your daughter that you and her teacher are a team, with the same goal—helping her succeed in school.

MISTAKES MAKE YOUR BRAIN GROW

Did you know that mistakes actually help kids learn more? Use these ideas to encourage your youngster to make the most of their mistakes:

Give your child room to "mess up." You might suspect that masking tape isn't strong enough to hold their project together. But they'll gain more from the experience if they try, fail, and come up with a new solution all by themselves.