

# How you can help your child succeed



## MYTH

*Being engaged in your child's learning means only being a volunteer at school or participating on committees and councils.*

## FACT

*Being involved is important, but of all the types of parent engagement, learning at home has the biggest impact on student achievement.*

### Why you should be engaged in your child's learning...

We know that a respectful and collaborative partnership between parents and guardians and their children's schools is one of the most significant factors in ensuring student success. When parents and teachers demonstrate a keen interest in learning skills development, students have the best possible chance to succeed.

### How your child will benefit through your engagement...

- Greater self-esteem and motivation
- Higher likelihood of graduation
- Better grades and test scores
- Better attendance at school
- Less likelihood of suspension
- Reduced risk of alcoholism and drug addiction

### How you will benefit from being engaged...

- Learn how to help your child be successful
- Gain knowledge of school systems, procedures and supports
- Access resources about parenting strategies
- Create a healthy home environment that is connected to your child's day

### Additional resources...

Parent Tool Kit: [www.limestone.on.ca/Parents](http://www.limestone.on.ca/Parents)  
Parent Engagement:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/getinvolved.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/getinvolved.html)

Ontario Education Resource Bank:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/bank.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/bank.html)

Internet Safety: [www.limestone.on.ca/Safe\\_Schools](http://www.limestone.on.ca/Safe_Schools)

Eat Well and Stay Active: [www.kflapublichealth.ca](http://www.kflapublichealth.ca)

TV Ontario Parents:

<http://ww3.tvo.org/topic/parents-education>

Beyond School Councils: Engaging parents to help their children succeed at school:

[www.peopleforeducation.ca](http://www.peopleforeducation.ca)

Doing Mathematics with Your Child K-6:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum2012.pdf>

Reading and Writing with Your Child K-6: A Guide for Parents

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit2012.pdf>

Helping Your Child with Reading and Writing: A Guide for Parents:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.pdf>

Helping Your Child do Mathematics:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.pdf>

Secondary Parent & Guardian's Guide to Assessment and Evaluation:

[http://www.limestone.on.ca/Programs/Secondary/Uniflip/Parents\\_Secondary\\_Evaluation/](http://www.limestone.on.ca/Programs/Secondary/Uniflip/Parents_Secondary_Evaluation/)



## How you can help your child succeed

### Be a Coach...

- Make every day a learning opportunity
- Have high expectations for your child's academic success
- Show an interest in your child's school day and what they are learning
- Encourage your child to investigate, discover, and imagine
- Use your child's interests to engage them in reading, writing, or math
- Work and play together
- Read with your child
- Access the local public library for books and other resources
- Take a virtual trip to a museum via the Internet
- Encourage healthy eating habits and good nutrition
- Promote a positive attitude about learning, and good work habits

### Be Organized...

- Establish a routine for school days that works for the family
- Create a school space at home where your child can practise skills, consolidate knowledge and skills, reflect on previous learning, prepare for the next class and/or study
- Hang a wall-size planning calendar to remember assignments, due dates, and school events
- Help your child track their progress and manage their time
- Use a problem-solving model to work on assignments and projects

### Be Proactive...

- Praise effort
- Be assertive, but not intrusive
- Let your child start the conversations about school
- Use open-ended questions
- Take an interest in what your child is learning or what they are interested in
- Give your child confidence to overcome barriers and challenges



- Support your child if they make mistakes - reinforce the positive
- Be aware of your child's online activities and consider placing computers they access in a shared space like the living room or kitchen
- Ensure your child is "cyber-smart" and aware of potential online dangers
- Ask children in secondary school to show you their course outlines and talk to them about the importance of organization, and of meeting the expectations listed in the assessment and evaluation overview section
- Review any school/class newsletters with your child

### Be an Advocate...

- Communicate with your child's teacher(s) early and often
- Talk to your child's teacher(s) using a format that works best for both of you (agenda books, phone, email etc.)
- Talk to you child's teacher(s) in person when possible
- Help your child's teacher(s) understand your child's strengths and areas needing improvement
- Build a good working relationship with the school and your child's teacher(s)
- Be informed and understand how the school works
- Network with other parents

