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**Resource Centers and
Lending Libraries**
Erie Elementary
Prophetstown Elementary
Tampico Elementary
Wallace Education Center
Southside School
Merrill School

Administered By
Whiteside County Regional
Superintendent's Office

Whiteside County **PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

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From the Coordinator

“Special Day CELEBRATIONS” were very well attended in June and July. We had a great time reading and playing together. Thanks to all who came; it was so good to see you. There are no activities scheduled in August.

Our toy lending libraries will reopen in September and parent/child activities will be scheduled in the schools. Please check next month’s newsletter for dates, times and locations.

Your parent educator will be calling you later this month to schedule a visit in September. If you have a change of address or phone number since May, please call me at 815/625-1495 or your parent educator.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Pat

Research Links Parent Involvement to Kindergartners’ School Success

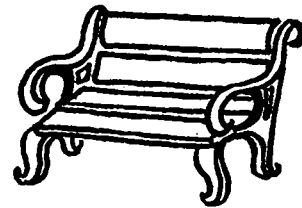
Family characteristics and home experiences are two of the factors that determine children’s knowledge and skill development, reports a new study released by the National Center for Education Statistics.

According to the report, *America’s Kindergartners*, characteristics such as a mother’s or father’s education level, the primary language spoken in the home, and the number of parents heading the household can contribute to stark differences in learning abilities among children.

The study also found that children’s success in school—or lack thereof—is in part related to events and experiences, including early child care, that occur prior to children entering kindergarten for the first time. One finding revealed children’s performance in reading, mathematics, and general knowledge increased with the level of a parent’s education. Home activities such as reading to the child or interacting through play were also found to be linked to a

The Park Bench School of Parenting

Years ago parents got most of their child-rearing information from each other. Articles in the Park Bench School of Parenting are written to revive that custom. If you belong to a parents' group, use these articles as discussion starters. Or ask a friend what he or she would do in a similar situation. Listen to different viewpoints and decide for yourself what's best for your family.



Easy Ways to Help Your Child Do Well in Grade School

In August your child's school year lies ahead, as fresh and untouched as a new notebook. What will fill its blank pages? If you hope it will be enthusiasm for school and for learning, here are a few thoughts:

Classes and Glasses —

Nip vision, hearing, and health problems in the bud before they cause your child to fall behind. Illness or toothaches sap energy, making it hard to concentrate. And even minor vision or hearing difficulties can cause your child to miss out on important information at school. Because kids assume everyone else sees and hears the way they do, they can't tell you when they're having trouble. Regular check-ups pay off.

Sleeping —

Nobody intends to send a tired, half-awake child off to school. But every parent knows you can't

night after night, makes it easier for kids to fall asleep — and easier to wake up the next morning refreshed and ready to learn.

Studying —

A predictable and short homework time every day helps, too. Make it as enjoyable as possible by staying nearby, doing work of your own, and offering support as needed. Be sure to include some enthusiastic comments about what your child does well. And on days when he doesn't have homework, have him use this quiet time to read or listen to stories, to draw, work puzzles or play board games. The trick, of course, is to make these moments a regular and pleasant part of each day. With thought, they can become a daily opportunity to reconnect with your child.

Talking about school —

Chat informally with your child

For More Ideas

Ask other parents what has worked for them when it comes to helping their kids do well in school and share your own thoughts as well. To start with, here are some suggestions from parents whose children have already gone through grade school:

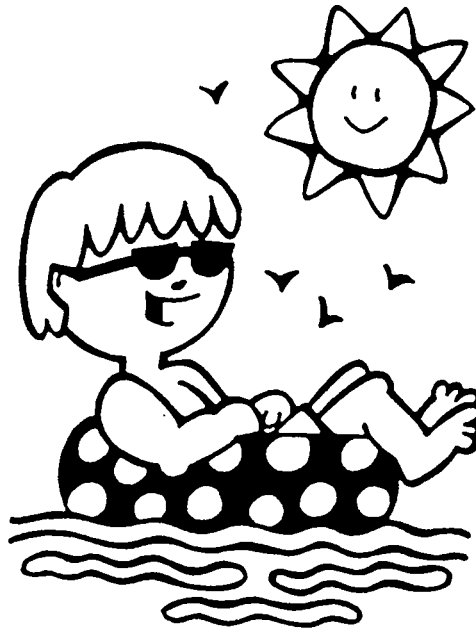
- “Expect occasional slumps. Even the best of students have them. If you treat setbacks as if they were disasters, it makes it hard for kids to get back on track.”
- “Look over the papers your child brings home. I file them so I can watch for patterns. I comment if I see that my son is improving, but if I see he's having a hard time I get in touch with the teacher.”
- “At the beginning of the year I ask the teacher what the best way is to get in touch. Usually they want

Ten Ways Kids Connect @ The Library

From the American Library Association

- 1. Answers . . .** How fast can a dog run? What is the moon made of? What happened to the dinosaurs? No question need go without an answer. One mom reports keeping a list and taking it with her to the library to help her child find the answers.
- 2. Books . . .** More books than any family can afford. Books to help stretch a child's mind and imagination. Old favorites like Amelia Bedelia and new favorites like the Goosebumps series tempt children of all ages to pick up a book and read. Ask your librarian for titles the whole family will enjoy.
- 3. Computers . . .** Kids who aren't logged-on and literate will be lost in the 21st century. More and more libraries provide computers and classes to help kids (moms and dads, too) master computer skills.
- 4. Fun . . .** Check out your library's free programs for children. Today's libraries offer a wide gamut of programming from movies and puppets to clowns and magicians to sleep-overs.
- 5. Homework help . . .** A growing number of libraries across the country offer homework centers specially staffed and equipped with computers and other reference materials to assist children.
- 6. Librarians . . .** Librarians are experts at answering questions and helping kids connect with books to appeal to their special interests. Be sure to introduce your children to the librarian and encourage them to ask for assistance.
- 7. Magazines . . .** Most libraries offer a selection of popular children's magazines with stories, games and other fun activities.
- 8. Preschool learning . . .** Getting kids ready to learn starts at birth. Almost every library offers preschool storyhours and other programs to introduce children to the fun of reading and stimulate mental development.
- 9. Tapes . . .** Borrow books, stories and songs to play in the car, while brushing teeth, before nap or bedtime.
- 10. Videos . . .** Check 'em out. Virtually every library offers videos on loan at no or nominal fees. Choose from Sesame Street, Shirley Temple, The Black Stallion and other classic children's films as well as current features.





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