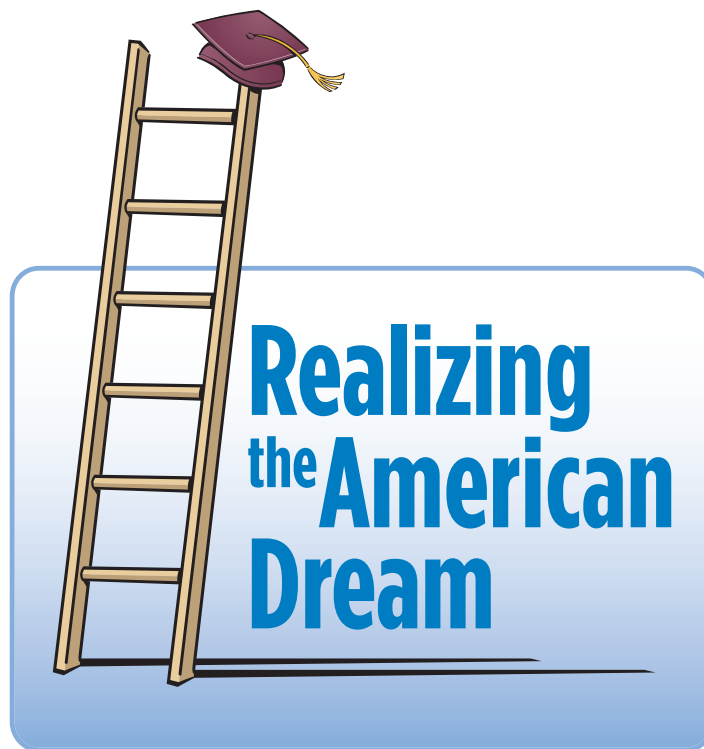


Elementary School – Class 1

Facilitator's Guide

YOU Make the Difference!



American Dream Academy

Facilitator's Tasks for Class 1

Before class

- Review checklist and Class 1 procedures.
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of class.
- Inform the coordinator that you have arrived.
- Get the room number for your class.
- Arrange tables and chairs in the classroom if necessary.
- Set up equipment for slides.
- Wait for parents in the cafeteria.
- Meet and greet parents with a smile as they arrive.
- Walk with parents to your classroom.

Materials for class

- Class roster and sign-in sheet
- Name tags
- Extra Pledge Forms for new parents
- Copies of Parent Survey
- Class 1 Lesson Books
- Class 1 PowerPoint® slides
- Extra sheets of paper, pens and pencils

During class

- Begin class on time.
- Make sure all parents sign in.
- New parents MUST fill out a Pledge Form and sign-in sheet.
- Administer and collect the Parent Survey.

After class

- Be sure to leave the room clean, tidy and exactly as you found it.
- Begin reminder calls to parents a few days before the next class.

Supplementary Materials

In addition to the Lesson Books, a wide range of supplementary materials is also available from The Parent Institute. Materials may be used as resources by facilitators in preparing to teach classes and in helping answer parents' questions. They may be distributed to parents in print or electronically from <http://realizingtheamericandream.com>.

Titles recommended for this class include:

- **Expect the Best From Your Child—and Get It!** QuickTip, Stock #1106
- **Communicating Expectations**, Stuffer, Stock #102F
- **It's Never Too Late to Get Involved!** QuickTip, Stock #1100
- **Instilling the Desire for Success in Your Child**, Booklet, Stock #337A
- **25 Ways Parents Can Help Children Learn**, Booklet, Stock #306A

Class 1 Goal

To help parents understand that they have a tremendous influence on their child's academic success—and on whether or not their child will graduate from high school and get a university education.

THIS SECTION
15 min
TOTAL TIME
15 min

Welcome & Curriculum Overview

- **Display slide #1:** “Elementary School Class 1” —*before* parents start arriving.
- **Introduce yourself**, write your name on the board and *explain why you are here*. Talk about why being the class facilitator is important to you.
- **Make announcements.** Take care of sign-in procedures, distributing and collecting forms, etc. Make sure new parents fill out a Pledge Form and sign-in sheet.
- **Distribute Lesson Books** for Class 1.

American Dream Academy

Elementary School Class 1
Welcome!

“The longest journey begins with a single step.”
~ Lao-tzu, Chinese philosopher

Ask two or three parents to tell the class *why they are here*.

THIS SECTION
5 min
TOTAL TIME
20 min

Activity 1: Ice breaker

GROUP ACTIVITY

Procedure:

1. **First**, ask class members to stand up, find someone they don't know, look them in the eye, *shake their hand* and introduce themselves. Do the same with two more people.
2. **After one minute has passed**, ask class members to find three more people they don't know, look them in the eye, *give them a “high five”* and introduce themselves.
3. **After another minute has passed**, ask class members to find one more person they don't know, look them in the eye, *give them an over the back “high five,”* introduce themselves and **find out how many things they have in common** in two minutes.
4. **Finally**, ask two or three class members to share what they learned about others in the class.

THIS SECTION
30 min
TOTAL TIME
50 min

Parent Survey

1. Give one survey to each parent.
2. Explain that the survey is anonymous and the purpose is simply to gather information for the curriculum. It's not a test!
3. Go over instructions on how to complete the form.
4. Read and explain each statement, using the script provided.
(A copy of the script is also included on page 11 of this guide.)
5. Allow a few minutes for parents to fill in each answer.
6. Collect the completed surveys.

THIS SECTION
5 min
TOTAL TIME
55 min

Overview of Class Sessions

Display **slide #2**: "Overview of Classes."

Give parents a quick overview of the "Realizing the American Dream" curriculum—seven classes designed to give parents a *plan for helping their child be academically successful* right now and be prepared for success in college and a career after graduation:

1. Why **you** make the difference in your child's academic success.
2. How to be a partner with your child's school.
3. Academic requirements your child must meet.
4. Communication and discipline.
5. Self-esteem and motivation.
6. Reading and responsibility.
7. How to make a Success Plan.

Overview of Classes

1. Why **you** make the difference in your child's academic success.
2. How to be a partner with your child's school.
3. Academic requirements your child must meet.
4. Communication and discipline.
5. Self-esteem and motivation.
6. Reading and responsibility.
7. How to make an Academic Success Plan.

THIS SECTION
2 min
TOTAL TIME
57 min

Explain class procedures & rules

- Starting and ending times
- Lesson Books. Tell parents: These are your "textbooks." They contain all the material covered in the ADA classes.
- Academic Success Plan (beginning with Class 2)
- Supplementary materials
- To-do list for the coming week—a list of actions for parents to complete. They are discussed at the end of each class and designed to reinforce what was covered in the lessons.

YOU Make the Difference!

Class Rules

- Be respectful to one another.
- Raise your hand to be recognized before talking.
- One person talks to the group at a time.
- Everyone gets a chance to talk.
- What we say in class stays in class.

Display **slide #3**: “Class Rules”

- Be respectful to one another.
- Raise your hand to be recognized before talking.
- One person talks to the group at a time.
- Everyone gets a chance to talk.
- What we say in class stays in class.

THIS SECTION
3 min
TOTAL TIME
60 min

About Today's Class

Display and discuss **slide #4**: “You make the difference!”

Talk about the importance of parents' influence and involvement in their child's academic success. Say they're already making a difference by being here!

You make the difference!

You have a tremendous influence on your child's academic success ...

... and whether or not he will graduate from high school and get a university education.

In today's class, you will ...

1. Learn how to climb the “Success Ladder.”
2. Understand how to make a commitment to success.
3. Understand how to make your success expectations clear.
4. Understand your role in the education of your child.
5. Understand that simple things you can do will help your child achieve academic success.
6. Learn about learning resources and opportunities available to help you.

Display **slide #5**: “ In today's class, you will”

Go over the objectives of today's class. (Class 1 Lesson Book, page 1)

THIS SECTION
15 min
TOTAL TIME
75 min

The Success Ladder (Class 1 Lesson Book, page 3)

Display **slide #6**: “The Success Ladder.”

Explain that it takes more than wishes and good intentions to make sure that a child is happy, healthy and successful in life! Realizing the dream requires careful planning and step-by-step action—starting right now in elementary school. Climbing the Success Ladder will help make sure children are successful in school now and graduate from high school prepared for success in college and a career.

Briefly review each of the six steps on the Success Ladder.

Throughout the remainder of the classes you will cover all of the steps of the Success Ladder in detail so that everyone understands them. In fact, the first two steps will be covered in class today—beginning with the commitment to success.

The Success Ladder

- 
- Step 6: Make a success plan.
 - Step 5: Focus on success factors.
 - Step 4: Understand requirements.
 - Step 3: Become a partner.
 - Step 2: Expect success.
 - Step 1: Commit to success.

Activity 2: Commit to success

(Class 1 Lesson Book, pages 5 and 6)

(Note: It's always a good idea to tell parents how long each activity will take.)

Procedure:

1. **Talk about how the way to achieve a goal, any goal, is to make a *commitment* to achieve it.** Offer some examples. Then congratulate parents on being here today! They have made the first step toward their commitment that their child will go to college. Without the commitment, it's only a dream.
2. **Display *slide #7*: "Likelihood of Success."**
3. **Read each of the "Commitment Steps" aloud.** Explain and discuss each step.
4. **Divide the class into groups.**
5. **Think of scenarios that require a commitment.**

For example, a person might want to:

- Lose weight.
- Get a driver's license.
- Get a better job.
- Learn a new skill.
- Save more money.
- Or any other scenario you or your class can think of that requires a commitment.

Likelihood of Success	
Commitment Step	Likelihood of Success
1. Make a conscious decision to do something.	25%
2. Decide when you will do it.	40%
3. Plan how you will do it.	50%
4. Promise someone else that you will do it.	65%
5. Make a specific future appointment with the person to whom you made the promise. Report whether you've done it.	95%

6. **Write each one on a piece of paper** and hand one to each group.
7. **Ask groups to discuss the goals** written on their papers as they relate to each of the commitment steps on the "Likelihood of Success" chart.

(Note: During any group activity, it's a good idea to call out the time remaining: "3 minutes remaining," "30 seconds remaining" to maintain a sense of urgency and keep the activity or discussion moving.)

8. **Ask each group to report** on the likelihood of success of the scenario they were given. Discuss as a class.
9. **Ask each parent to find a partner.** Tell the partners to help each other with their commitment to help their child succeed academically and prepare to go to a university. Exchange phone numbers. Call each other to make sure they come to class each week.

At the conclusion of the activity, tell parents, "We have talked about commitment. Congratulations again for being here and for making a strong personal commitment. You are doing this for your child—for your child's academic success. Now visualize your child's success. Visualize your child on graduation day, wearing a cap and gown and holding that diploma!"

YOU Make the Difference!

Next, it's time to look at how to make sure their child understands their expectations for his success.

THIS SECTION
7 min
TOTAL TIME
97 min

Activity 3: Make success expectations clear (Class 1 Lesson Book, pages 7 and 8)

1. Display **slide #8**: "Setting Expectations."

Ask one of the parents to read the statement about expectations aloud. Do parents agree or disagree? Have they noticed this with their own child?

Rules for Setting Expectations

1. Choose expectations carefully.
2. Be clear.
3. Be reasonable.
4. Be confident.
5. Be a good role model.

DISCUSSION

Setting Expectations

Whether they do it consciously or unconsciously, children work hard to do what they believe is expected of them.

Tell them, and show them, what you expect ... and you'll get results!

2. Display **slide #9**:

"Rules for Setting Expectations."

Ask parents which rules on pages 7 and 8 they think are most important.

Display **slide #10**: "There is no substitute ..."

Explain to parents: "The biggest secret to motivating your child to succeed is to *make sure you truly believe that your child can be successful.*"

There is no substitute for your belief in the importance of education to motivate your child to succeed.

Make sure you *truly believe* your child can be successful.

You've talked about commitment. And you've talked about expectations. Now talk about how parents can help their child learn every day."

THIS SECTION
10 min
TOTAL TIME
107 min

Parents' Role in Education (Class 1 Lesson Book, pages 9 to 11)

Explain that experts say that children are learning every moment they are awake.

How old was your child when she first ...

- ... saw you and smiled?
- ... tried to "tell" you she wanted something?
- ... spoke her first word?
- ... learned to walk?
- ... learned how to ride a bicycle?

Display **slide #11**: "How old was your child ..."

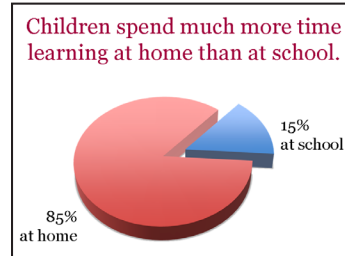
Call on a few parents. Ask: How old was your child when she or he first ... ?

DISCUSSION

Display slide #12:

“Children spend much more time ... ”
(Class 1 Lesson Book, page 9)

Talk about how children are also learning every moment they spend with you.



Let's do the math!

- 24 hours per day
- 24 hours - 8 hours sleeping = 16 waking hours per day
- 365 days per year x 18 years = 6,570 days
- 6,570 days x 16 waking hours per day = 105,120 waking hours by age 18
- 6.5 hours each day in school
- 180 school days x 6.5 hours = 1,170 hours of school each year
- 1,170 hours of school each year x 13 years (1 year in kindergarten + 12 years through high school) = 15,210 school hours
- 15,210 school hours ÷ 105,120 waking hours = .1446 or *only 14.46%* of waking hours by age 18 spent in school.

Display slide #13: “Let’s do the math!”

Some parents may be surprised by those percentages. Briefly, go over the calculations of how you arrived at those numbers.

Explain why experts say that “Parents are teachers, too.” Tell them that they are the most influential teachers their child will ever have.

Although children spend 15% of their learning time at school, it’s important to point out that parents have a role in that 15% too! Their involvement is important and appropriate in order to maintain a good partnership with the school and support the academic success of their child. In Class 2, you will discuss ways to build that partnership.

THIS SECTION
3 min
TOTAL TIME
110 min

Simple things can help your child succeed
(Class 1 Lesson Book, pages 13 and 14)

Display slide #14: “Four Most Important Things Parents Can Do.”

Explain that these four items were identified by a team of education experts as the most important things parents can do to help and support their child.

Ask parents to review at home the suggestions listed under these four headings on pages 13 and 14 of their Lesson Books.

Explain that in the coming weeks we will learn many specific and simple things parents can do at home to help their child succeed academically.

**Four Most Important Things
Parents Can Do**

1. **Encourage** your child in schoolwork.
2. **Model** what your child should do.
3. **Reinforce** at home what your child is learning in school.
4. **Teach** your child things you know.

THIS SECTION
10 min
TOTAL TIME
120 min

Class Review and To-Do List for the Coming Week (Class 1 Lesson Book, page 17)

Display **slide #15**: “In today’s class, we learned ...” and review each item briefly. Tell the class that now it’s time to put what they’ve learned to work.

Ask parents to turn to Lesson Book page 17.

Review with them their tasks for the coming week:

1. **Make an appointment** to go to my child’s school to gather information for the next class.

Review the ideas about what to say under item #1. If time permits, do a role-play demonstration with a parent “calling” you to ask for an appointment.

ROLE-PLAY

2. **Talk with my child** about my commitment and expectation that he or she will go to a college or university.
3. **Talk with friends or family members** about my commitment that my child will go on to study at a college or university.

Display **slide #16**: “Learning Resources at Home.”
(Class 1 Lesson Book, page 15)

4. **Make a list of learning resources** my family has at home.
5. **Call my class partner.** Make plans to attend the next class..

In today’s class, we learned ...

1. How to climb the “Success Ladder.”
2. How to make a commitment to success.
3. How to make your success expectations clear.
4. About your role in the education of your child.
5. That simple things you can do will help your child achieve academic success.
6. About learning resources and opportunities available to help you.

Learning Resources at Home

- Reading materials—fiction and nonfiction
- Games and puzzles
- Tools, equipment and other objects
- **What other ideas can you add to the list?**

There’s More in Your Lesson Book

Tell parents to take a few minutes to review the Lesson Book at home. It contains information about everything that was discussed in class today, plus additional information that couldn’t be covered due to time constraints.

Facilitator script for survey administration

Dear Facilitator,

Thank you for helping us to conduct this very important survey. The results will be used to understand what parents learn from the Realizing the American Dream program and, in turn, improve parents' program experiences.

Participation matters. The survey **must** be completed by all parents who attend the first formal session. If a parent joins the program at subsequent sessions, please allot time for newcomers to complete the survey.

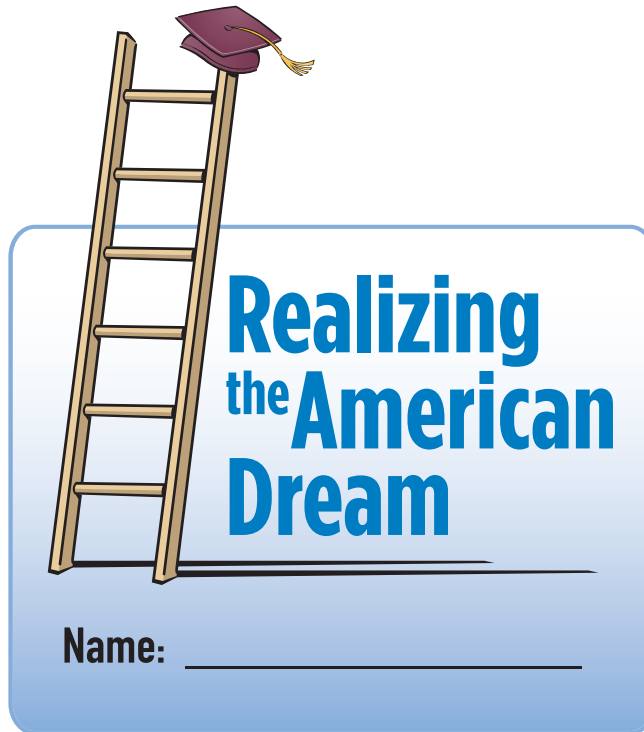
When helping parents complete the survey, please read aloud the instructions below:

“Our goal at the American Dream Academy is to help you understand the American educational system and ways you can actively support your child’s school success. To achieve this goal, we need to understand what you currently know and do. As I read aloud each statement, consider how much you agree or disagree with it. Then indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by filling in the circle that corresponds to what is most true for you. You have four choices when responding: *disagree very strongly*, *disagree*, *agree* or *agree very strongly*. Please think about the current school year as you consider each statement. There are no right and wrong answers. The right answer is the one that is most true for you. If you aren’t sure you understand a statement that I read, please don’t hesitate to ask for clarification.”

Once parents have completed the surveys, collect them and place them in your Red Folder along with the signed Attendance Verification Form and give them to your Coordinator. If there is no Coordinator, return them according to the instructions that you received from your Field Program Manager.

Elementary School – Class 1

YOU Make the Difference!



American Dream Academy

YOU Make the Difference!



The ultimate goal of the classes you are beginning today is to help you make sure that your child is successful right now in elementary school, goes on to middle school, graduates from high school and proceeds to get a college education. That is also the goal of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards—to make sure every student graduates ready to succeed in college and a career.

Schools are very important. But studies prove that **YOU** actually have more impact on your child's academic success than schools do. And you don't have to be trained as a teacher or have a university degree yourself.

Objectives

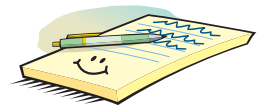
In today's class, you will:

1. **Learn how to climb the "Success Ladder"** to help your child achieve academic success and have the opportunity to get a higher education upon graduation from high school.
2. **Understand how to make a commitment to success.**
3. **Understand how to make your success expectations clear.**
4. **Understand your role in the education of your child.**
5. **Understand that simple things you can do** will help your child succeed academically.
6. **Learn about learning resources and opportunities** available to help you with your child's educational development.

"The longest journey begins with a single step."

~ Lao-tzu,
Chinese philosopher

Notes:



YOU Make the Difference!

1. Climb the 'Success Ladder' With Your Child

It takes more than wishes and good intentions to make sure that your child is happy, healthy and successful in life! Realizing the dreams you have for your child requires careful planning and step-by-step action—starting right now in elementary school.

Learn how to climb the 'Success Ladder'!

Step 1. Commit to your child's success. You and your family must make a commitment to help your child achieve academic success—and get a higher education after high school.

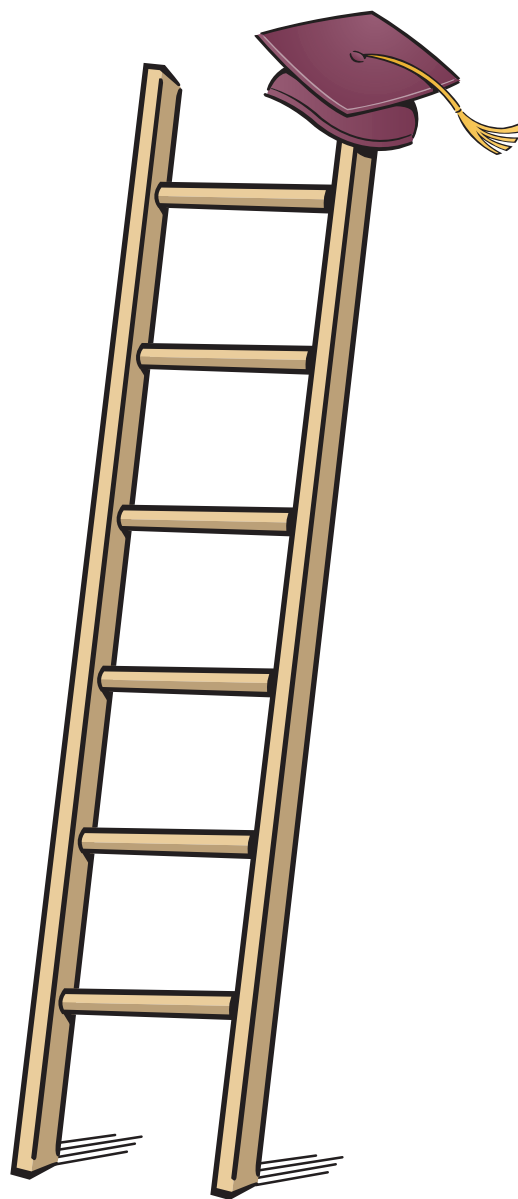
Step 2. Expect success. Talk with your child about your expectations. Talk about what you will do—and what you expect your child to do—to ensure his success.

Step 3. Become a partner in your child's success. Many people are available to help your child. Meet them and learn how to work together to achieve your goal.

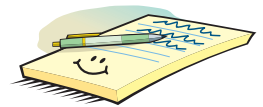
Step 4. Understand the academic standards and requirements your child must meet to graduate. Learn about the roles of schools and parents in a child's education. Find out how grades are determined. Learn the meanings of terms and concepts such as: Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, GPA, Special Ed, ELL, etc.

Step 5. Focus on academic success factors. Spend time on things that will make a big difference for your child—communication, discipline, self-esteem, motivation, reading, responsibility and planning for the future.

Step 6. Make an Academic Success Plan. It's important to make a plan to help your child succeed academically and go to a university. In your plan, include what each of you will do daily, weekly and each grading period.



Notes:



YOU Make the Difference!

2. Commitment is the First Step to Success

You're not just determined to help your child succeed in school and at a university. You're *committed*! But commitment is more than a feeling. It's a series of actions that raise the chances of success. The more you go from thinking about success, to *talking* about it, to *doing something*, the greater your chances that it will happen.

If you:	Likelihood of Success
1. Make a conscious decision to do something	25%
2. Decide when you will do it	40%
3. Plan how you will do it	50%
4. Promise someone else that you will do it	65%
5. Make a specific future appointment with the person to whom you made the promise. Report whether you've done it	95%
Visualize yourself being successful—and you're almost there!	

Take all of the commitment steps

As a family:

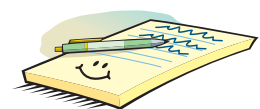
- 1. Make a conscious decision to do something.** Set a long-term goal, such as "Our family will make school success and higher education a top priority." But commit to short-term goals, as well. For example, "We'll spend homework time together."
- 2. Decide when you will do it.** Imagine you've committed to a family study time. Choose a deadline. It should be sometime soon, but also leave time for discussion and planning.
- 3. Plan how you'll do it.** Write down specifics. "Juan will do homework, read or review from 4:00 to 4:40 p.m. each school day. Mom or Dad will stay nearby to supervise, read and do chores. All homework will be checked by Mom or Dad immediately."
- 4. Promise someone that you'll do it.** Positive peer pressure can help you reach the finish line. Tell a caring relative or friend—or even your child's teacher—about your plan.

- 5. Make a future appointment with the person to whom you made the promise,** at which time you'll report whether you've done it. You might say, "Grandma, we'll call Friday night and tell you about our homework success!"

Making a commitment is exciting—and sometimes a little overwhelming. But once you start planning, confidence soars! Your family will see that small steps lead to BIG success!



Notes:



3. To Get Success, Expect it!

It's easy to expect things of your child: *Be kind. Make friends. Succeed in school. Earn a university degree.* The challenge is to have your expectations met!

Remember that your child cannot make and carry out a plan for success alone. You have the experience, the maturity and the knowledge about the importance of education. Your child does not. There is power in your expectations. Without your expectations, it would be much more difficult for your child to succeed.

Setting Expectations

Whether they do it consciously or unconsciously, children work hard to do what they believe is expected of them.

Tell them, and show them, what you expect
... and you'll get results!

Make the most of your expectations

When setting expectations for your child, follow five basic rules:

- 1. Choose carefully.** What's best for your child? What is most important for your child to do right now? Make a list of positive goals to discuss with your child, such as "Move up to the next reading level," "Get a B on the next math test" or "Participate in a fun after-school activity." Review the list with your child. Talk about how these goals may relate to future goals, including university attendance.
- 2. Be clear.** Make sure your child understands what your expectations are. Use simple language and specific examples. "To succeed in school, you have to finish your homework every day. That's what I expect of you." Remember to keep the focus on your child's effort. When your child works hard and gives his best effort, success will follow.



3. Be reasonable. It's tempting to set expectations that are too low (because they're easy to meet) or too high (because the goals are appealing). Set expectations for your child that are challenging, yet within reach.

4. Be confident. Research shows that believing in kids helps them do much better in school and in life. So believe in your child—and show it! Say things like, “I’m excited about the report you’re writing. You’re going to learn so much from it!”

There is no substitute for your belief in the importance of education to motivate your child to succeed.

Make sure you *truly believe* your child can be successful.

5. Be a role model. Your child is not the only one who should meet expectations. Let your child see that you also meet your commitments at home and at work. If you live up to expectations you show that: 1) it's possible and 2) it leads to success!

Meeting expectations is cause for celebration

- **Talk about how great it feels!**
- **Share your own experience.** “I was intimidated by a project at work, but I stuck with it every day. Now I’m so happy it’s done!”
- **Tell your child,** “You finished two pages of division. What an accomplishment!” The more expectations your child meets—especially with your support—the closer she’ll be to realizing her dreams.

Notes:



YOU Make the Difference!

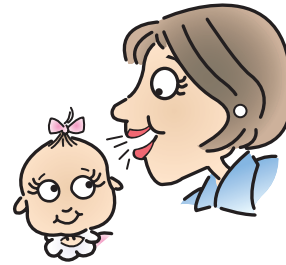
4. You Have Tremendous Influence on Your Child's Education

When, where and how does your child learn?

Experts tell us that children are learning every moment they are awake, wherever they are.

You saw your child:

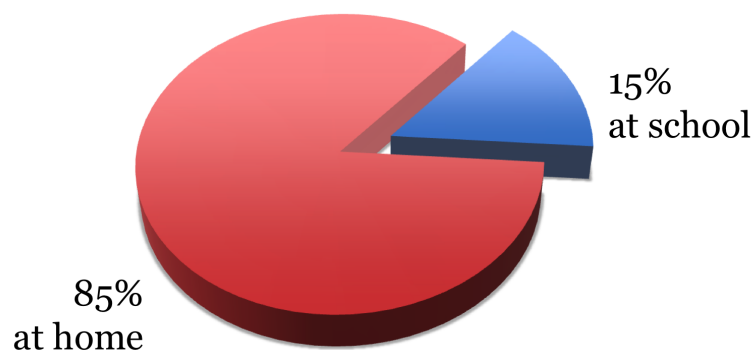
- **Start learning** the day she was born!
- **Respond to your face**, to your voice and to what she saw, felt, heard and smelled.
- **Learn how to let you know** when she wanted something—or didn't want it.
- **Learn to talk** by listening to you. She learned how to eat, take a bath and get dressed from you.
- **Learn to play nicely** with others by watching how you get along with other people.



Parents are teachers, too!

Whether you think of yourself as a teacher or not, you taught your child almost everything he knew before he started school. Experts say that you are your child's first teacher—and the most influential one he will ever have.

Children spend much more time learning at home than at school.



Your involvement is welcome, appropriate and expected

- **Education is the foundation of our country.** The success of our democratic system of government depends on making sure that people are well informed.
- **Education is also the key to personal success.** People need education to get, keep and advance in any job. It is hard to think of anything in life that is not improved by a good education.
- **Schools today want, need and expect parents** to support learning at home, attend meetings and other school events, volunteer in the classroom and help in other ways at school. It's never too late to get involved! No matter how old or young the student, when parents get involved in their education, their children do better academically.

There are at least six helpful ways to get involved

Most education experts think there are at least six basic ways parents can be involved in the education of their children:

1. **Parenting**—Helping children stay happy and safe as they grow up.
2. **Communicating**—Staying in touch with teachers and the school.
3. **Volunteering**—Supporting teachers and school programs at school or in other locations.
4. **Learning at home**—Supporting learning activities at home, including monitoring homework.
5. **Decision-making**—Participating in school decisions.
6. **Collaborating with the community**—Supporting students and the school through businesses and other groups providing services to the community.

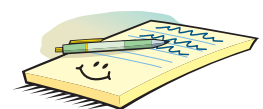


Even very busy parents can:

1. **Be flexible.** If you work in the morning, see if you can help at school in the afternoon.
2. **Attend important school events.** See if your employer will allow you to take time off to attend parent-teacher conferences.
3. **Squeeze in a little more learning** during traveling time in the car or on the bus with their children—or even during bath time with young children. Of course, your child can’t read library books in the bathtub—but you can review addition facts or spelling words together. Your child can’t write an essay in the car—but you can talk about possible topics together.
4. **Set priorities.** Your kids are really important to you. Think about this when you decide how to spend your time. Instead of just doing things right, make sure you are doing the right things. Do you have a choice between cooking dinner and reading with your child? Order a pizza and read the book together!
5. **Spend one-on-one time with your child.** Kids need both “quality” and “quantity” time. And there’s nothing like spending time alone with a parent to make a child feel special. Every week, make an appointment to spend some time alone with your child. Get out your calendar and write it in.
6. **Volunteer after hours.** Schools can use your help no matter what language you speak. You don’t always have to come to school during the day to help out. Here are some things you might do at home or after the school day ends:
 - **Recruit other parents** to volunteer.
 - **Offer to translate letters, forms and newsletters** that will be sent home to parents.
 - **Attend school events held in the evening**—concerts, plays and art fairs.
 - **Put together “Welcome Kits”** for families that are new to your school.



Notes:



5. Simple Things Can Help Your Child Succeed

If you are like most parents, you are not sure you have the knowledge and skills, or even the time and energy, to get involved and really help your child succeed in school.

But there is good news! The things you need to do to help your child succeed academically are simple and require no special training. You can do them in the time you already have!

Experts have found that the four most important things parents can do are:

1. Encourage your child

- **Point out the good things** your child has done in school before talking about things that need improvement.
- **Post samples of good schoolwork** on your refrigerator, a bulletin board or a wall.
- **Praise your child when she does well.** Let her overhear you telling others about it.



2. Be a good role model

- **Show your child how to organize** school materials by keeping your own belongings, clothes and tools organized.
- **Teach your child to complete work on time** by showing him how you do it.
- **Show your child that you think education is important.** Ask about school every day. Go to school events and meetings.

3. Reinforce learning at home

- **Ask your child to teach you something** the teacher taught in school today.
- **Make sure your child keeps track of homework** and explains it to you.
- **Help your child practice spelling and vocabulary words.**

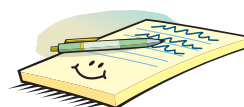
4. Instruct your child

- **Teach your child how you have learned** to remember important facts.
- **Teach your child important things** every child should know, such as: fastening shoes, saying *please* and *thank you*, and cleaning up your own mess and clutter.
- **Teach your child to be fair**, to take turns and to make friends by being a friend.
- **Read with your child every day.** Make sure you have plenty of reading materials at home—books, magazines, brochures, catalogs, etc.



Simple things you can do make a big difference in helping your child learn!

Notes:



YOU Make the Difference!

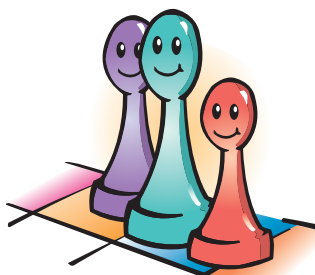
6. Learning Resources Are Everywhere!

Children are learning all the time—and everywhere. One of your most important (and enjoyable) jobs as a parent is to make sure your child has a variety of learning resources available to interest him and boost his learning when he's not in school.

Learning resources at home

Every home already has some learning materials and resources available, such as:

- **Reading materials**—in any language—including library books, magazines, comics, newspapers, catalogs, advertising flyers, recipe books, owner's manuals, cards and letters. It's important for your child to have access to both fiction and nonfiction:
 - *Fiction* is used primarily to entertain. Authors use characters, settings and plot to tell stories that are not real.
 - *Nonfiction* is used primarily for information. These materials use factual writing to tell about real places, people and events.
- **Board games** like Scrabble®, Bingo, Monopoly®, chess, checkers, Uno® ... and more.
- **Jigsaw puzzles**, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, etc.
- **Crayons and coloring books**, pencils and paper, paint and paint brushes, modeling clay, a sand box, building blocks, alphabet blocks, etc.
- **A deck of cards**, a yo-yo, a telescope, a magnifying glass or a tape measure.
- **Your neighborhood.** Take a walk during the day to look for birds and at night to look for stars.
- **Family time.** Tell a story. One person starts. The next person adds to it. Another adds to that—and no one knows how the story will end.



Community learning resources

Take your child on a learning adventure. See if your community has resources like these available:

- **A public library**, a park, a museum, an airport, a bus, train or subway station.
- **A grocery store**, hardware store, convenience store, pet store, laundromat, car dealer, print shop, radio or TV station, factory, restaurant, gas station, repair shop, dry cleaner.
- **A recreation center**, community center or playground.

And don't forget your school!

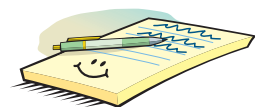
Do you know about all the before- and after-school resources and activities that are available at your child's school?

- **Are there after-school** recreational programs?
- **How about tutoring?**
- **Does your school have** its own library, gymnasium, parent center, computer room, craft room, garden, recycling center, health clinic, family nights, movie nights, concerts, plays, open house?

How can you find out?



Notes:



YOU Make the Difference!

My To-Do List for the Coming Week

1. **Make an appointment** to go to my child's school to gather information for the next class.
2. **Talk with my child** about my commitment and expectation that she will go to college or university.
3. **Talk with friends or family members** about my commitment that my child will go on to study at a college or university.
4. **Make a list of learning resources** my family has at home. Include both fiction and nonfiction reading materials.
5. **Call my class partner.** Make plans to attend the next class.

Notes:



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The ASU American Dream Academy is the key that helps families open the door to the transformative power of education.



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