

COMMUNICATING EXPECTATIONS

A Key to Your Student's Success

Tap into the power of motivating your child by making clear what you expect. You'll find that telling your child your expectations gets results. And a child who succeeds is motivated to do even more.



Believing in your child's ability to succeed and expecting your child to work hard is important, but it is just as important to *communicate* your expectations.

Begin by asking what your child thinks your expectations are. What kind of behavior is expected at school? How much time should be spent on assignments? Listen carefully. You may find that your child has many of the same expectations that you have!

Clearly state your expectations. Instead of saying, "I expect you to do better in school," say, "I expect you to read for 30 minutes after dinner each weeknight."

Once you begin communicating your expectations, you and your child can work together to see that they are met.

Here's How to Communicate Expectations Effectively



- **Set aside time to talk** with your child about expectations. Be specific. For example, say that you expect your child to turn in assignments on time.
- **Share your values with your child.** For example, say that you expect members of your family to treat all people with kindness and respect.
- **Model your expectations.** *Show* your child the behavior you expect, then talk about how you expect him to do that, too.
- **Comment on progress and effort,** not just results. “You worked hard on that report.”
- **Show that you mean what you say.** Check to see if your child is meeting expectations. If you expect your child to be responsible for taking out the trash, don’t take it out yourself. Remind your child of your expectations, but make sure it’s *your child* who lives up to them.

When families put the power of positive expectations to work, it helps children reach for their dreams.

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