

The ABCs of helping parents get their children off to a flying start at school.

- A** Attend all school functions.
- B** Be aware of the damage that you will cause by telling your child that he or she is stupid. The child may believe you.
- C** Communicate the importance of education to your child.
- D** Don't criticize a teacher, textbook, or school in front of your child, as the child will adopt your attitude.
- E** Encourage your child to talk about what happened at school each day.
- F** Fix your child a good breakfast every day.
- G** Good readers are made, not born. Read to your child for ten minutes every day.
- H** Help your child get organized for school the night before.
- I** Impress upon your child the importance of a good attendance record.
- J** Join the parent-teacher organization at your child's school.
- K** Keep up with what is happening at your child's school.
- L** Lying for your child is not acceptable. You should not write fake excuses for a child who doesn't do homework or misses a day of school.
- M** Monitor the amount of television and the types of programs your child watches.
- N** Never do homework or projects for your children. Instead, help them with homework and projects.
- O** Observe the work your child brings home from school each day.
- P** Praise something in every bit of work that your child brings home even if you can only say how neatly his or her name is written.
- Q** Quiet corners in your home encourage study. Set up a special study area for your child.
- R** Request conferences with teachers or counselors when trouble begins to appear. Don't wait until a full-grown problem has developed.
- S** Send a happy, well-rested, well-organized, and appropriately dressed child off to school each morning.
- T** Take your child to the library on a regular basis.
- U** Understand that learning is not always easy and that your child may need help at times.
- V** Value your child as an individual. Never compare a child to a brother, sister, or another child.
- W** Work with your child's teachers at school. Always consider yourself as a partner of your child's teacher rather than an adversary.
- X** X is often an unknown ingredient. It's the extra special things you will do to help your child succeed in school.
- Y** You are the child's most important teacher.
- Z** Zip it all with love. Love gives zest to life.