

We're Engaged! A Checklist to Support your Child's Learning

Parental engagement in children's learning is the new buzz phrase – for good reason. "...positive parental engagement in learning improves academic achievement, wellbeing and productivity". (Emerson et al 2012). Family practices, behaviours and attitudes to school and learning significantly impact on a child's educational success. So how do you know if you are doing the right thing as a parent?

You are 'engaged' when you:



- Talk positively about school in general, their school in particular and the benefits of doing your best at school;
- Have high expectations - expect your child to do their best, apply themselves to their learning and complete set work when its due;
- Support your child's consistent and punctual attendance at school;
- Ensure they have a healthy diet and enough rest;
- Develop a good working relationship with your child's teacher/s - attend parent information sessions, read school and class newsletters, respond to notes and permission slips; attend parent/teacher interviews; keep an open line of communication about things that matter to your child's learning and wellbeing; resolve grievances appropriately;
- Ensure that your child has the time, space and resources to do their homework - and to relax;
- Talk with your child about school, what they are learning, their friendships, what homework they have and how they feel they are doing;
- Taking their age into account, talk with your child about current affairs, things going on in the world, TV shows you watch together. Ask their opinion on issues and respect their point of view;
- Provide opportunities to experience a range of cultural and social experiences;
- Participate in the life of their school community in whatever way best reflects your interest, skill and capacity;
- Read aloud with your child and/or encourage them to read often;
- Be a positive advocate for your child's learning, social and emotional needs;
- Encourage and praise qualities such as persistence and having a go particularly when the task is challenging for your child;
- Encourage your child by acknowledging their successes and;
- Acknowledge that you are your child's first (and lifelong) teachers and 'partner' with their teacher/s and school in their education.

