

Five Tips for Staying In Step with Your Kids during the School Year

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During the summer months it seems pretty easy to keep in tune with your children. Sports activities, family vacations, and days at the pool help create a strong family bond. But once they leave for that first day of school in the fall, it can be much harder to continue the same level of involvement in their lives. But it is worth it. Many studies have shown that parental involvement helps your kids learn more effectively.

Many schools and school groups, like the Parent Teacher Alliance (PTA), work hard to offer parents opportunities to become more involved in their children's school experience. The following are five tips parents can use to keep involved with their child's school and help improve their overall educational experience:

- 1. Ask lots of questions, and listen to the answers.** Your child is discovering many new things every day at school. Put aside your grown-up worries for an hour or two and listen to what they have to say.
- 2. Keep in touch with the teacher.** Knowing and keeping in touch with your child's teacher is the most effective way to keep abreast of your child's progress and to get a handle on any problems he or she might be having.
- 3. Join the PTA.** The PTA is very involved with what happens at your child's school. Talking to other parents and keeping abreast of what is going on help you be more involved.
- 4. Provide encouragement.** Report cards only come out a few times a year, but every day is a new opportunity to encourage your child to do their best.
- 5. Don't forget about after school activities.** Sports teams, music and drama, the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and church activities all offer productive and enriching activities for kids after school lets out.

Read more details about each of these tips at [Good Parents Stay Involved.](#)