



School and Homework

Education can be seen as a tremendous gift. It's a time in life that is set aside specifically for learning. Yet, for many young people, school is a chore and a struggle. And in many families, it is a continuous source of conflict. Education is a complex and contentious issue, but the fact remains that school is a central reality of young people's lives. And as such, we want our young people to get as much out of it as they possibly can.

You can help make learning engaging and stimulating by sharing your own excitement about the world. Talk to your children about what they're studying in school and try to find ways to support what they're learning. Make lifelong learning a priority in your home. Having a strong sense of purpose about school and about the future makes young people more likely to succeed.

The **40 Developmental Assets** are positive qualities, experiences, and skills that children need to grow up healthy and responsible. Anyone can use these assets as a framework to help them think through the new experiences they're encountering with their children. When dealing with the issue of school, and homework in your family, the assets you may want to consider looking at for guidance are High Expectations, Parent Involvement in Schooling, Commitment to Learning, Reading for Pleasure, School Engagement, Homework, Bonding to School and Sense of Purpose.

Here are some action tips to help along the way.

- Be clear about your expectations with regard to school. Expect young people to do their best, but allow them room to make mistakes.
- If your child is struggling in school, try to find out what's at the root of the problem. Find out what additional resources are available. [Success 2000](#), [Sylvan Learning Centre St. Albert](#), [Kumon](#)
- Let your children see that their school is important to you, too. Attend School Activities and conferences, get involved in the parent organization, help plan a fundraising event. Show interest in what goes on each day at school.
- Encourage your children to read for the sheer pleasure of it. Keep interesting books and magazines around the house, and visit your local library together. [St. Albert Public Library](#)
- If your child complains about being bored or unhappy at school, take the complaint seriously, and see what can be done to improve the situation.
- Doing at least one hour of homework every day is one of the assets that helps young people stay on track. Help your child set up a homework schedule, and plan dinner and other family events around that schedule.
- Having a strong sense of purpose about school and about the future makes young people more likely to succeed.