

PAID CONTENT

Parents: How You Help & Hurt Your Child's Education

A Love of Learning Is a Gift You Give Them

Part 6/12

"It's the Parents! It's the Parents!"—We Hear It All the Time

Every parent dreams of their child's success, and education is key in turning that dream into reality. Unfortunately, parents are often seen as either heroes or villains in their child's school experience. Some nurture a love of learning and encourage respect for teachers, while others adopt an adversarial approach toward teachers and administration. When parents take the latter path, this antagonism doesn't just create tension—it disrupts the entire learning environment.

Imagine this: a third grader throws a tantrum, blocking the classroom door. The teacher, bound by school regulations that forbid touching a child, is told to evacuate the class through the windows. Even though the problem was eventually solved, an hour of precious learning time was lost. The potential of legal action has dramatically influenced teachers' behavior, affecting the whole school. How could this have been prevented? **For everyone to realize that teachers and parents are on the same team, and both have the best interest of their child.**

Become the Force for Change Your Child Needs

Let's break it down. Here are five critical areas where positive parental leadership can make all the difference:

1. **Work Ethic:** Learning is tough, and without a strong work ethic, kids fall behind.
2. **Respect:** Disrespect towards teachers doesn't just hurt the teacher—it derails the entire class.
3. **Discipline:** A handful of disruptive students can steal hours of learning from everyone else.
4. **Attendance:** Post-COVID, kids skipping school for vacations or other reasons is a growing problem.
5. **Love of Learning:** If you don't nurture it early, your child might never develop it.

Solving the Problem Together: Do We Need Legal Action?

Here's the good news: You have the power to turn this around. Here's how:

1. **Reward Success:** The Child Mind Institute recommends using positive reinforcement, such as hugs and high-fives, to reward a child's effort (not specific outcomes) for their schoolwork.
2. **Parenting Classes:** In Dallas, they're considering linking government social system benefits to completing adult education classes on parenting. Why not make this a reality everywhere?
3. **Legal Accountability:** Laws like California's Penal Code 272 (a)(2) hold parents accountable for their child's behavior. This isn't about punishment—it's about ensuring every child has the chance to thrive.

The real change starts with you. Help your child succeed by becoming an active participant in their education.

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