

# Elementary and High School Parental Involvement

The 2020-2021 academic school year may prove to be a challenging time for students and their parents amid the coronavirus pandemic. You may be wondering how the school year will unfold. Or, you may already have a plan in place but recognize it may need to change as pandemic restrictions and the school year evolve.

Whether you have the option of in-person or remote learning by video link—or some combination of the two—parental involvement will be crucial to your child's academic success. While this may seem like a difficult task, with careful planning you can help your child succeed whether at school or at home. Below are some tips to help reinforce study and homework habits and encourage your child's love of learning now and in the future.

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**Elementary** **C** Think about your child's nature. Do they have too much pent-up energy at certain times of day? Are they sluggish after meals? Finding the right time of day will help your child respond better to studying—or independent distance learning—and be a more productive student.

**Elementary** **M** Encourage "schoolwork time" each and every day, especially if your child's school has extended periods of independent study. The earlier children get into the habit of study time—even if it's only for a short period—the easier it will be for them to adjust as their workload gets heavier.

**Elementary** **Dea** Does visualizing a concept through pictures or images, or when listening to someone, work best for your child? Or, perhaps your child is a tactile learner and prefers to "practise" or "do" what they are studying.

**Elementary** **a** Find a place with lots of light that suits your child's style of learning and where your child can study comfortably. A desk or even the kitchen table will do. Keep children away from the TV during scheduled schoolwork times.

**Elementary** **ed** Have the right tools available and easily accessible. Paper, books, pencils, binders, planners/calendars, calculators, and other tools are a requirement for good study habits.

**Elementary** **ee** Paying close attention to homework will not only help identify any potential difficulties but also lets your child know that you're interested in them and what they're doing. Offer to check the homework once it's completed. If your child needs help, offer to pitch in, but remember that it is your child's homework and they are responsible for completing it.

**Elementary** **ed** When the going gets too tough, let children take a short "time out" to shake off any frustration and regain their focus. Offer praise. Consistent and specific praise positively reaffirms solid study habits and builds confidence.

**Elementary** **ed** Talk to children about what they're studying at school and encourage them to let the teacher and you know when they don't understand a new topic or idea. Ask kids questions to determine whether or not they really "get" something.

