



# Tips

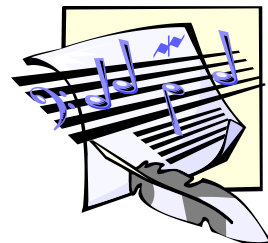
for

## Teachers and Administrators

*How to stop bullying in your classroom.*

*Enhancing Creativity Through Music.*

What is bullying?



# Seven Recommendations You Can Give Every Parent

Over and over again a child's academic success in school is affected by many factors. But one thing is certain: The more teachers and parents choose to work together-and the more parents are involved in the work of their child's education- the better young people do in school. Fortunately most parents want our help-and many know that they need it. Like effective teaching, however, effective parenting is not an easy task.

When we seek parents out- or when they seek us out- our professionalism and expertise need to stand out. And we need to have good recommendations at our finger tips. That will help their children. We must be ready when parents seek us out about a specific problem and be prepared when they want to expand their conversation into more ways they can help their child. Here are seven simple but vital suggestions we can make to help parents enhance the possibilities of their child success in school.

First, we can strongly recommend that parents establish a daily family routine for their child. Parents can establish both a time and a quiet time to study. Parents can also assign responsibilities for household chores, be firm about times to go to bed, and set time for the family to be together. Parents need to know that having an established routine helps young people manage time, set priorities, and get their work done.

Second, we can recommend that parents monitor out-of-school activities. They can meet this recommendation in various ways, including setting school-night rules and limits on TV watching. They can check on children when they're not home-and arrange for after school activities and supervised care. Parents need to know that when children are unsupervised and not accountable for their time, their school work almost always suffers. Their unstructured lifestyle can be counterproductive to doing well in school. We can also remind parents that it's not just in the evening hours that young people get into trouble. Many studies point out the fact that it's between the time the students get out of school and when parents get home from work that many people engage in the wrong activities.

Third, we can urge parents to attend school events involving their child-and to support and model the value of school, learning self discipline, and hard work. This can be achieved by communicating with their children through conversation and questioning. Parents can also give testimony to the fact that achievement comes from consistently working hard. It does not come by just wanting and wishing.

Fourth, parents can help their children perform well in school by expressing high but realistic expectations for achievement. They can also do so by setting goals that are appropriate for their child's age and maturity. Also, parents can recognize and encourage special talents. Further, when children overhear their parents telling friends and family about their child's successes, they are more likely to keep their standards and motivation high.



Fifth, by maintaining a warm, caring, and supportive home, parents can encourage their child's development and school progress. This action includes showing interest in child's development and school progress. This action includes showing interest in children's education by supporting homework and projects-and often discussing the advantages of participating in opportunities offered by the school. Career options can be discussed as well. In the process, parents should be urged to stay in touch with teachers and school staff-and always seek answers to their questions and concerns.

Sixth, parents should be encouraged to read and discuss interesting topics and issues within the family. Many family activities help meet this need: Reading, listening to children read, and talking about what is being read and studied in class. Families can also discuss the day at dinner, tell stories, and share hopes and dreams as well as problems.

Seventh, parents can use family, school, and community resources to strengthen their children's school performance. They can enroll their children in sports programs and music lessons. They can also introduce children to new activities, including community resources available to young people.

The Master Teacher knows parents need our professional help. After all, our primary expertise lies in knowing what young people need to do to be successful at school. And parents should not be reluctant to ask for our advice-and we shouldn't be reluctant to share it. If our concern is for the welfare of children, giving parents advice is one of the most important things we do. In the same vein, we need to be aware that we need parents. Parents usually know more about their children than we do-and have information we can use to reach and teach their child.

The Master Teacher knows it's wise to give directions and offer recommendations to parents after we ask for their input and advice. We can say, "What do you know about your son or daughter that I should know? How could I help him or her?" Then we can follow up by saying, " Let me recommend some things we know about the relationship between home and school which enhances school success." Remember, teachers and parents both have knowledge needed by the other. Sharing that knowledge can't help but benefit young people-if both we and parents use it professionally, ethically, and constructively.

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