

The Importance of Parent Involvement in Student Achievement



Elizabeth Nagy and Katie Anderson GATE DAC September 8, 2014

Research Supports the importance of Parent Involvement in Children's School

- "...the most accurate predictor of a student's
- achievement in school isn't income or social status but
- the extent to which that student's family is able to:
- ✓ Create a home environment that encourages learning
- ✓ Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers
- Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community

Henderson and Berla (1994)

How do I support my child at school?

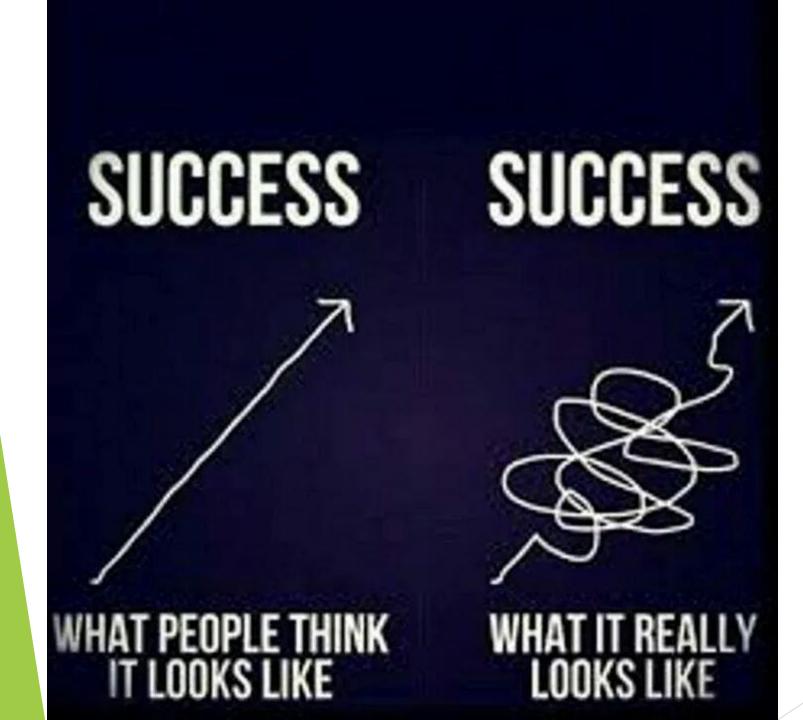
✓ Create a home environment that encourages learning:

- Limit technology and "screen" time
- Have a designated location and time for homework, in order to support the idea of the importance of doing school work, be available to support your child staying focused
- > Let your child see you reading every day, whether for pleasure or for work.
- Explore local museums on free days or with passes checked out from the City library system
- > Explore puzzles and word games together as a family
- Provide the tools to encourage creativity, such as crayons, paper, clay, sidewalk chalk, Legos, etc.

How do I support my child at school?

✓ Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for your children's achievement and future careers

- Don't expect straight A's because your child is gifted. Many students develop asynchronously - they may be aces in Math or science and struggle with penmanship and expressing themselves - or vice versa.
- Be supportive and patient when your child struggles. Mastering difficulties builds confidence for the next time they are encountered.
- > Be careful not to over-praise your child for work easily done well, rather, praise them heavily for working hard to master difficulties.



How do I support my child at school?

✓ Become involved in your children's education at school and in the community

- ✓ Take *every* opportunity to volunteer at your school site and otherwise. Your willingness to participate will stimulate your child to do the same.
- ✓ Attend as many school events as possible. When you value school, your child will too.
- ✓ If you have any time at all to be in the classroom to help on a regular basis do it!
 Grandparents are often welcome to help as well on an on-going basis.
- ✓ Always attend Parent/Teacher meetings. Bringing you child is even better, as it will teach them that they are an important actor in their learning.
- Ask your child open ended questions that will lead to conversations such as: "What was the coolest thing you learned at school today?" rather than: "How was your day?" which can lead to a simple, communication ending "fine."

Common Participation Opportunities at School Sites

Open house

School site beautification

Musical performances/Art Exhibits

Principal Coffees

Lunch Duty

Library

School Site Council/School Site Governance

DAC - Compensatory Funding Advisory (Title 1)

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

GATE DAC - GATE District Advisory

ELAC/DELAC - English Learner Advisory

School Site's Cluster Representative

School Foundation Committees