



Commissioner for  
Children and Young People  
Western Australia

# How can you help your child to be engaged in school and learning?



Top tips for  
parents, carers  
and family

School is an important part of a child's development, so how can families and carers best support their children to do well? The Commissioner for Children and Young People consulted 1,800 WA school students from Years 3-12 on what helps their engagement at school.

## Based on the views of WA students, here are some ways families and carers can help primary and secondary students:

**Ask** children about their school work, what they find interesting and encourage them to just chat about their day at school. Do this often – no matter if they are in Year 1 or Year 12.

**Listen** carefully when your child tells you how they feel about school and respect their views and opinions.

**Find out** if your child gets the help or support they need to do their school work. Talk to the school about how to improve this if it is a problem for your child.

**Offer** help with homework or find someone who can – many students in the consultation said that they would like more help with their homework, with very few saying they did not need this.

**Participate** in school activities such as assemblies or sports carnivals when you can. Students highly valued the involvement of parents in their school.

**Encourage** your child to be at school every day. A parent or carer's attitude on school attendance has a strong influence on their children.

"If they don't come to school events or talk about what you're doing in school, it can be quite hurtful and feel like they don't care about your education."

**Ask** your child about how they get along with friends and other students. Find ways to help them build and maintain positive relationships with friends and other students.

**Ask** your child about their teacher/s and if they get along with them. Provide positive advice aimed at supporting their relationship with teachers and avoid making negative comments about teachers or other school staff.

**Talk** to your child about feeling safe and find out if they have any concerns about their safety. Within schools, feeling and being safe is critical for learning.

**Talk** to your child about their physical, mental and emotional health and how these affect their learning. Seek help if these are an issue for your child.

**Provide** a home environment that supports wellbeing and learning. This includes developing a routine for sleep, relaxation and homework as well as providing a calm space for learning.

**Find** the right balance – take an interest in your child's learning and have high expectations of them but avoid setting 'overly' high expectations particularly in areas not of interest to the student or where they may seem unattainable.



"My mum helps me prepare for big tests like NAPLAN. My dad helps me to make sure I'm kind. My siblings help me doing my homework."

"Be helpful, be supportive, loving, caring and help you with learning."

"[Parents can be] so involved with their own work and lives that they don't support the kids enough."

"Families can help encourage children in their learning and social groups. They can talk to students about how they went at school on that day and how they are going with their friends and teachers. They can also ask if the student has any homework or school work that they need help or could be struggling with."





# More support:

- The Student Wellbeing Hub website has information and resources about important topics to help your child have a safe and positive experience at school. Visit [studentwellbeinghub.edu.au](https://studentwellbeinghub.edu.au)
- The WA Department of Education has responsibility for both public schools and non-government education services. The Department's website offers a range of detailed information about schooling. Visit [education.wa.edu.au](https://education.wa.edu.au)
- The Learning Potential app and website are supported by the Australian Government and offer useful tips and inspiring ways parents can be more involved in their child's learning, from the early years to the end of high school. Visit [learningpotential.gov.au](https://learningpotential.gov.au)

**More information about the Commissioner for Children and Young People's school and learning consultation is available at [ccyp.wa.gov.au](https://ccyp.wa.gov.au)**

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