

Parent Tips:
**How to Help
Your Child
Succeed in
School**

Deer Creek Intermediate School



Back to School



How to create a productive relationship with your child's school:

1. Please visit us. We would love to see you at Open Houses, conferences, and other special school events. This tells your child that school is important and a fun place to be!
2. Please check your child's backpack regularly for school communications. Young children in particular are not reliable about letting you know they have a note from the teacher/school. This includes their assignment notebook.
3. If you have a concern, please don't wait until conference time to address it. It is easier for teachers to address situations when they happen. It also gives staff time to improve your child's experience.
4. Remember that your attitude about school will affect how your children feel about school. Share positive experiences and the belief that school is fun and important.
5. Get to know your child's teacher and other staff at school. Your child will spend every day in this learning community. The reading teacher, guidance counselor, principal, librarian, specialist teachers and office staff are there to help your child too.
6. Consider volunteering. We always need help with creating classroom materials or adults who are willing to listen to children read.



Bring your child to school ready to learn!

1. Brains need adequate amounts of sleep in order to function at their best. Here are the recommended guidelines:

5 yrs	11 hours	9 yrs	10 hours
7 yrs	10 1/2 hours	11 yrs	9.5 hours
2. Let them climb trees. Physical play outside with peers contributes to the development of important skills –co-ordination, risk assessment, planning, creativity, memory, attending, social skills and self-control. Make sure that they have some “down time” to relax between school, homework, sports, and other obligations.
3. Breakfast is essential to get kids off to a good start to their day. Children who are distracted by hunger cannot focus on school work. Please send healthy snacks for break time and ensure that bag lunches are healthy and balanced. Hydration is also important. Water bottles are allowed at school.
4. Leave playthings at home. Even toys or phones left in backpacks are distracting to students. Jewelry or unusual clothing can also be very distracting.
5. Teach responsibility at home. Do not “fix” every problem for your student. Ask them how to problem solve the solution to a dilemma. Do not automatically run to school with forgotten items.

Homework



This is a challenging issues for students, teachers, and parents alike. Here are tips to make it as painless as possible.

1. Homework is your child's responsibility to complete. It is your responsibility to monitor it and make sure that it is done to the best of your child's ability.
2. Prioritize study time—designate a specific time and place for it. Make sure that they have the tools that they need—a flat surface, a chair, good lighting, school supplies, and quiet.
3. Let them try to figure things out on their own. If they try, but are still struggling, then step in. Explain how to solve the problem, but let them do the work.
4. Spend time practicing basic skills with students—learning math tables, sight words, letter sounds, and other important skills. Developing mastery and automaticity of these basic skills is essential to making good progress academically.
5. Don't say you're hopeless at math. That attitude is catching. If necessary, ask your child's teacher how to accomplish tasks. We were taught in different ways and cannot be expected to always know the new ways.
6. Help your child with research if necessary by taking them to the library or monitoring their online research.
7. Do the hardest or longest assignment first.
8. Talk to your child's teacher if homework is regularly taking longer than the recommended amount of time for their grade.



Reading is critical to success in all academic areas. To help your child be successful, create a literacy rich home environment.

1. Encourage your child to use the library. Make regular trips to the library a part of your family's routines.
2. Encourage your child to read. Monitor and limit their use of video games, the computer, and television.
3. Have lots of books and other printed materials in your home. Use the library or Goodwill and other thrift stores to build your home library. Encourage family and friends to give books as gifts to your children. Take advantage of Scholastic book clubs to build your child's library at reasonable prices.
4. Make read-a-louds a regular part of your daily routine. Most families find that this is easiest to do at the end of the day. Continue reading to your children even after they learn to read themselves. Pick a book that is slightly higher than their reading level. This stretches their vocabulary level and familiarizes them with more complex text structures.
5. Stock up on writing and drawing supplies—different kinds of paper, writing utensils, office tools, magnetic letters, envelopes, stamps, etc.
6. Let your child see you read and write. They can help you write a letter or create a grocery list.



Specific Tips for Supporting Growing Readers

1. For 10 minutes of your child's at home reading time, have them read out loud to you. Sit nearby so that you can monitor how accurately they are reading.
2. When students make an error, stop them at the end of the sentence. Say "you read" and repeat back to them what they said out loud. Ask them if that matches what is in the text, or sounds right, or looks right. Usually they can spot the error on their own. If not, point out the mistake to them, and ask them to try again. If they are still not successful, ask them if they recognize parts of the work, or suggest that they blend the sounds. If after a few tries, they cannot decode the word, give it to them and move on.
3. Discuss the reading materials with the child. Check for understanding. Some children are accurate readers, but struggle to create meaning while reading. A conversational style is best—"I'm wondering what you thought about this article" or "would you have done it that way" or "why do you think the main character did that?"
4. Make sure that your child is reading a "just right" book. Studies have shown that students grow the most when reading a book in which they recognize 95-99% of the words. Students reading books that are too difficult for them can actually regress in their skills. It also teaches them not to expect reading to make sense.
5. Give students a voice in choosing their own reading materials.



Talk, Talk, Talk, Talk, Talk,

Reading is a language skill. Proficient language development is essential to success in reading and all other academic areas. An important priority in today's schools is teaching students how to express their understanding and knowledge verbally and in written format. Students talk to peers and teachers every day, all day. You can help your child be successful in language development by:

1. Talking with your children about everyday events and activities. Remember, they don't know what you know and take for granted. Share that wisdom.
2. Expanding you child's vocabulary by using, defining, and pointing out interesting words encountered in books, signs, and other sources.
3. Have family discussions centered on family activities planning, current events, you and your child's day, or TV programs.
4. Go to interesting places and discuss what you see—the library, museums, zoos, nature centers, interesting stores, etc...
5. Use car time to chat or listen to music. Sing along.



Remember that in addition
to the 3R's, children need
the 4 A's:

Attention

Appreciation

Affection

Acceptance

Together, we can provide our children with
everything they need to be successful!