



Little Big Leaders

Report

How to Help Your Child Excel



Little **BIG** Leaders

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How to Help Your Child Succeed in Education

5 practical steps to help your child succeed in education

When it comes to learning, it is important to note that usually, there are more ways than one through which children learn. In education, there is no, 'one size fits all'. Children use many avenues to learn and it is up to you as a parent/guardian, to help your child understand what takes place in school. In aiding that process, you should keep track of what your child learns in school so as to make sure they really understand and are not just studying for the sake of it. In this report, Little Big Leaders, sets out 5 practical steps to help your child succeed in education.

1. How often should your child read?

Children should start to learn to read and read regularly from a young age because it will help develop their mind. When a child learns to read from a young age, you will be amazed at how well they perform when at school. Your child will also become a good speller and will also acquire high critical thinking skills together with having a greater pool of general knowledge. In aiding your child to be the best, one must consider purchasing quality books for them, one that is interesting enough to keep them hooked so they want to read more. When your child tells you that there is too much to read, do not leave it at that. Encourage them to read by making a suggestion in regards to reading the book. This includes allocating time for you and your child, where you will each take turns in reading different sections of the book and while you read, consider making it as captivating as possible. Once your child has internalized the reading culture, you will not need to do a lot of follow up but it is important to check their progress constantly to make sure they pronounce words correctly and that they know the meanings. This gives your child the confidence to read and understand complex books.

While captivating the reading culture, you should also ensure your child is alert and not tired. It is actually not a good idea to have them read a book after playing. This is because they will

actually not concentrate as much and they will make a lot of mistakes in the process that will leave them frustrated. Getting them to read too late into the evening is another aspect that you should not consider mainly because they might not be able to retain the information they just read as they are tired. After reading, you should get your child talking about what they just read to determine that they understood. In doing this, you are assisting them in creating pictures in their mind about the characters, scene and plot among many others. In the process of doing this, you will find that the child will also add on to the plot or point out a few things that should have happened in a different way. This enables them to think and articulate the story line, which is actually a critical aspect in the growth and development of a child. Encourage them to read small portions everyday which will stretch them and as they grow older, they will be able to read more for longer.

At Little Big Leaders we have a unique Reading Programme which helps children to not only read, but also learn how to write. It starts from the basic sounds and then progresses onto more complex sounds. Once children understand that words are made up of sounds which when combined, make words which they can read, it becomes very rewarding for both the child and the parent. The progression for the child is such an amazing experience once they can read and understand what they have read. They then want to read more.

2. How should you prepare your child for assessments?

As mentioned earlier, parents should keep track of their children's performance in school since this will enable you to know that they are grasping the content taught. Since assessments usually take place at scheduled times, you should know when so as to make time in regards to supporting and helping your child. It is also your duty as a parent to help your child prepare well in advance for their assessments and to allocate enough time for this preparation. Many times this ends up being a rushed process of trying to cram everything in for the child but one must remember that children learn in stages and through repetition. In ensuring that they are fully prepared, make sure that they undertake past papers of a similar nature beforehand. This will go on to give them an idea of the type of things that may come up in the actual assessment. You should also do a mock exam where you provide your child with a sample or a mock

assessment paper, then set up a timer. This should be in accordance with the time set when they are taking on actual assessments and this will go a long way in making them aware that they are required to finish before the time is up. This will enable them to read over what they wrote and make any necessary amendments.

Little Big Leaders aims to help with the assessment process by providing material which needs to be completed in allocated time slots so children are able to cope with the pressure of assessments. They learn what they need to do in the allocated time and the fundamentals of completing all the questions in the allocated time. This is really a skill which is learnt and one which we teach our students who attend Little Big Leaders for our Saturday, Summer or Winter School.

3. When is the best time to help your child learn?

Learning is a process and the earlier the better. We recommend you devise a structure for your child which they can follow so they know when they have to learn. This involves setting up a room where you will be conducting the teaching or learning. Setting up such an environment will make them aware that getting into that room only means learning and not playing, which will eventually culminate in excellent discipline and structured learning. As a parent, you should spend time supporting them from a young age and when they grow older, they will be able to use their own initiative, in completing homework on their own. The learning process should not be undertaken too late into the evening.

Mornings are one of the best times to do a little bit of learning, so you should make a timetable that will involve learning taking place sometime in the morning and early into the evening. The time for learning in the morning should not be the same length as the time set in the evening. The timings should vary in that, if you usually teach your child in the morning for about twenty five minutes, the evening time should be about thirty minutes or one hour. This should be set in accordance to how your child responds when they are learning.

Little Big Leaders takes place early in the morning which we notice is one of the best times to help our students learn and retain the information. Our sessions run for set times and contain adequate material to help develop each student to the best of their ability. The material presented at Little Big Leaders is varied to help stimulate our students and engage them to further enhance their learning. If you would like to attend one of our Open Days like many of the other parents who recently attended, then please do contact via our website www.littlebigleaders.com.

4 How you can make learning fun and enjoyable

When you incorporate fun into learning, your child will really enjoy the experience of learning. They will always look forward to learning since you have made it fun. This could mean allowing your child to have periodic breaks, where they get to do something that they enjoy doing or just simply relaxing for a few moments. You can also consider creating a simulating environment for the child that involves setting up interesting things that will enable them to be creative in their learning process. This may mean undertaking a creative piece of writing or an area being made available that has visual images, which will go on and stimulate creative ideas. This should be prior to learning or when your child is taking a few moments to relax before resuming again.

You can also arrange a fun activity but ensure your child does not get too tired since this will mean that they will not be able to concentrate once you resume the learning process. Children tend to focus more when they have been exposed to a fun environment as this may contribute towards memory retention. This obviously changes as the child grows older but when young, do everything possible to make learning fun since this will act as a foundation in regards to their learning.

At Little Big Leaders, we aim to tutor in an environment which helps aid the learning process, one which is clean, bright and spacious. We want the environment to really contribute towards the child having fresh and exciting ideas when they create stories or try and work out a

mathematical challenge. The more the environment contributes towards inspiring the child to learn, the more they could potentially learn.

5What rewards should you give your child?

Rewarding a child for accomplishing something is important, since this will drive them to do more and better. As a suggestion, you could consider getting a sticker chart where the child takes ownership for it and this is after you show them how it works. In this chart, you write what they have to do on any given day and once they achieve it, a sticker is placed on the slot, meaning that the task is completed. You could then reward your child after confirming that they have truly completed the allocated task. A simple reward could just be you praising your child and informing them of how well they completed the given task in the allocated time. If it is not a sticker chart, consider purchasing an item that they love, for them to have something exciting to look forward to.

Purchasing the item and presenting it to the child is usually not enough. After giving them the reward, ensure that they appreciate what they receive and that they value it. This is usually by getting them to explain why they received the reward and what it actually means to them. This will tell you whether they loved the gift and if at all they didn't, you will then be able to get something else that is appropriate for them. You could also ask them to give you ideas in regards to the gifts they would want to receive and you would then select one from their list possible once a month as a real treat. When giving them their reward, you should also provide lots of positive and constructive encouragement because this makes them feel they achieved something. When you are supporting your child in regards to doing something, you shouldn't do the task for them but rather encourage them to do it when undertaking the work. This will in turn teach them the importance of not quitting when a task gets too challenging.

When children are taught the importance of not quitting, they grow up knowing that every task is capable of being solved when a different approach is taken. It is important to instill that in a child since this will contribute in enabling them to grow up to be highly confident and skilled

adults. In case your child expresses himself/herself in regards to quitting a task, listen but do not show your disappointment. Respond by encouraging them to finish the task after which you can then discuss what part proves challenging and whether you can teach him to take a different approach. When you tackle the challenge in this way, the child knows that when faced with a challenging task, accomplishing it does not mean that you apply one method. They learn, other ways can be used to tackle the challenge, which eventually completes the task. This develops a child's initiative and character to see things through to completion.

Where possible, parents should monitor the progress of their child every step of the way. This should not be left to the teachers but in the event that you have a busy schedule, monitoring their progress once in a while is advised. As a suggestion, there should also be a tutor if the child is not performing well when it comes to certain subjects.

Being a parent involves many different things and sometimes trying to get the right balance with family life and helping with the completion of homework is not always easy. Making time to read with your child is also important and cultivating a reading culture is crucial especially from a young age. Some of the benefits include;

- A stronger relationship will develop
- Basic speech skills will develop
- There will be better communication skills
- More logical thinking skills
- Concentration is enhanced together with discipline
- Knowledge that reading is fun
- Academic excellence

Books have the power to benefit toddlers and preschoolers in a myriad of ways. As a parent, reading to/with your child is one of the most important things you can do to prepare him/her with a foundation for academic excellence. Children exposed to reading maybe more likely to choose books over games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older. Since early reading for young children has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school age, consider reading to your child. This will go a long way in securing the future of your child. You will be glad you did!

To enable your child to read more fluently or undertake Maths or English, Little Big Leaders run a Saturday, Summer and Winter School to contribute towards children being the best that they can be and achieving desirable grades. We provide regular presentations on our Open Days where your child can undertake an assessment and attend a trial lesson. If you are concerned about your child's education, then contact Little Big Leaders.

To find out how we can help your child, please contact us via any of the following methods.

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