

THE PARENT-CHILD CONNECTION

MAKE KIDS FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES!

The better children feel about themselves, the greater their chances are for success in school. A positive self-image begins at home. Involve your kids. Listen to them. Value them . . . because kids are people, too.

LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING . . . AND WHEN.

Display a calendar in a well-traveled area of your home, and chart all activities. Children's awareness of time and space is essential for strengthening organizational skills through planning and sequencing.

YOUR KITCHEN IS A VALUABLE LEARNING CENTER.

When you prepare a meal, you plan, measure, combine and divide. Involve your children in kitchen experiences. Putting anything together, from a peanut butter sandwich to chocolate chip cookies to a full meal, calls for social cooperation as well as for basic skill reinforcement.

LET YOUR CHILD SEE YOU READ.

Each time you read a book for your own personal benefit, you serve as a positive role model for your child. Find time to read a magazine or newspaper, or indulge in a captivating book.

READ TO YOUR CHILDREN!

If they are small, read the countless array of books available at the library. Read road signs and landmark titles. If you have older children, cite an interesting article from the newspaper or a magazine. Read it aloud and discuss it.

WHICH DID THEY LIKE BETTER, BOOK OR MOVIE?

With video recorders so readily available these days, we can now read a classic novel and then rent the adapted movie. Believe it! Children love to be critics and will often voice a preference for the book. This activity is a rewarding experience for the whole family!

ENRICH YOUR CHILD WITH "LIFE" EXPERIENCES.

Children mature as they expand their knowledge of the world beyond their home. There is a variety of activities available. Take them to the zoo or to a museum. Attend a concert or play designed for children. Turn your shopping trips or outdoor walks into learning experiences.

ATTACK THOSE ONE WORD MUMBLIES!

Does this sound familiar? "Hi, how was school today?" "Fine." "What did you do today?" "Nothin'." You just led your child into the "one word response" trap. Lead kids into conversation with the phrase, "Tell me about your day."

STRIVE FOR A BALANCE IN TV VIEWING.

Beyond its reasonable use as pure entertainment, television expands children's knowledge of the real world. Know what your children watch. Guide them into positive choices, such as nature series, children's book adaptations, etc. When nothing valuable is on, turn the set off!