

numerous ways (see [Family-Centered Care](#) box). Cultivating responsibility is the goal of parental assistance. Being responsible for schoolwork helps children learn to keep promises, meet deadlines, and succeed at their jobs as adults. Responsible children may occasionally ask for help (e.g., with a spelling list), but usually they prefer to think through their work by themselves. Excessive pressure or lack of encouragement from parents may inhibit the development of these desirable traits.

Family-Centered Care

Helping Children in School

General Guidelines

Be supportive: Provide companionship; share ideas and thoughts.

Be positive: Every child should experience some success each day.

Share an interest in reading: Use the library; discuss books they are reading.

Support and encourage activity rather than passivity.

Encourage originality: Help children make their own projects from discarded articles or other available materials.

Foster the development of hobbies and collections.

Encourage children to wonder and reflect during free time.

Encourage family experiences and trips to places of interest.

Encourage questions: Help children discover sources for information or places to explore and investigate.

Stimulate creative thinking and problem solving: Help children try out new solutions to problems without fear of making mistakes.

Use rewards rather than punishment.