

Supporting Common Core State Standards

Instill a desire for success in your child

When it comes to success, it isn't just a matter of how smart children are or how much talent they have. If they don't have the desire to succeed, they probably won't succeed—in school or in anything else. For your child to be successful with the Common Core State Standards, she must believe in herself and in her abilities. Here's how you can ignite that internal spark and instill a desire for success in your child:

Boost self-confidence

Studies show that bright children who think poorly of themselves may do poorly in school. But average children who believe in themselves can excel. Compliment your child on things he does well. Say, "I love you" every day.

Give responsibility

Giving your child a new responsibility when she is ready for it shows that you trust and respect her. Your child, in turn, will learn to trust herself and her own instincts—which is key to motivation.

Nurture unique gifts

Each child has something that makes him special. Build on those strengths. A child who believes he is a good athlete or a good musician is less afraid to try learning a new language, for example. Your behavior can also show your child that you value his interests. If your child is concerned about the environment, you could make a family effort to recycle.

Point out success

Don't wait until your child completes a task successfully. Comment on her effort and improvement each step of the way. A child who raises a grade from a D to a C deserves as much praise as a child who makes an A.

Give your child a journal

Encourage your child to keep a journal of accomplishments. The journal becomes a "savings account" of positive feelings your child can bank on whenever he needs support and encouragement.

Teach persistence

Teach your child that failure is something that can happen to you, not something you are. At one time or another, everyone fails at something. Help your child remember that she can try again until she is successful. If your child still feels like quitting, express confidence in her. Say encouraging things like, "I bet you will figure it out," and "That's a challenge, but I know you'll make it."

Talk about the future

Sometimes children get the idea that success is something that just happens to others. One way to change that mindset is to talk about good things that "could possibly" happen to your child in the future. Be creative. Let your child know that you see a bright future for him. By talking about the possibilities, you'll get him to think of the possibilities, too—and that's a step toward success.

