

# Supporting Common Core State Standards

## Seven learning secrets from teachers

Your child's education doesn't stop when the school bell rings. It continues all day and night—and so does your role in it. The support and guidance you provide at home can make all the difference in how successful your child is in school and how well she adapts to the Common Core State Standards. Here are seven learning secrets from teachers that will help you reinforce your child's learning at home:

**1 Establish routines.** Teachers know that children thrive on routines. And studies show that successful students follow well-established routines at home as well as in school. Establish daily routines for bedtime, morning, after-school, homework, chores, meals, etc.

**2 Organize for learning.** Kids can spend up to a third of their study time looking for misplaced items rather than learning. Make sure that your child is organized and that she has a desk or table where she can work. Put pens, pencils, a dictionary and other needed supplies within reach. If your child works at the kitchen table, have a box where she can keep supplies.

**3 Place a priority on homework.** There is no such thing as “no homework.” During those times when there really is no assignment from school due the next day, your child can review or do extra reading.

**4 Develop listening skills.** Teachers model and reinforce listening skills in class, and you can do the same thing at home. Have real conversations with your child. Show that you are interested in what he has to say. Turn off the TV and put down the newspaper. When he sees how you pay attention to him, he will learn to pay attention to you and to others.

**5 Develop note-taking skills.** There is no substitute for taking good notes in class. In fact, some teachers test more on what they say during class than on what is in the textbook. Tell your child to write down whatever a teacher writes on the board while talking. She should also listen carefully for phrases, such as, “the main idea,” “an important point” and “something to keep in mind.” These words probably mean that the information is important.

**6 Set goals.** Educators know that one of the best ways to give children the motivation to reach their dreams is by teaching them how to set achievable goals, reach them, and then set even higher goals. Encourage your child to set some goals he can reach in a short time frame. Show him how to make them specific. For instance, “be smart” is too broad. “Learn my addition facts,” however, can be observed and measured.

**7 Ask thought-provoking questions.** Rather than asking your child questions that can be answered with a simple *yes* or *no*, try asking:

- **What was the most interesting thing** you did in school today?
- **What was the best question** you asked in class today?
- **How would you teach** your math class if you were the teacher?