

WHY

You Need To Be INVOLVED

By Solomon Brenner

Set up a “homework center” for your children where they can get some serious work done. Make sure they are equipped with all the supplies they need and that they are not taking too many, or too few, breaks. It’s easy for kids to get distracted and lose track of what they are doing, but at the same time, it is important for them to take breaks to refuel. You may even consider setting a timer to let them know when it is time to take a break. Set your homework center up somewhere where there is little distraction and get your kids to do their homework in the same spot every night. The routine will make it easier for them to get their work done.

It is also important for you to get involved in your children’s education at their school. If you are unhappy with or are concerned about the way something is being done at the school, speak up. If none of the parents ever said anything about a problem at school, the problem would never be solved. Go to a PTA meeting to voice your concerns or write a letter to the principal explaining the problem and maybe even suggesting a solution. Talk to other parents about your concerns and listen to theirs so that you can make sure all of your kids are getting the best education possible.

If you have the time, volunteering at a school function is a great way for you to stay involved. Whether you help out the lunch monitors a few times a week, help your second-grader’s class with their special scarecrow project, or volunteer to pull tickets at the school play, your children will appreciate your involvement and will be more excited about the activity with which you are helping.

Above all, stay in constant communication with your children’s teachers. This will help you and the teachers know that something is wrong at the very first sign and may prevent your child from falling behind. It will also motivate your children to work harder if they know that mom and dad keep in touch with the teacher. Nowadays, many schools even have websites where you can view your child’s progress or email the teacher. Take advantage of these resources and stay involved with your children’s education.

Feel like you don’t have any idea what goes on with your kids at school? Get involved! Even with a busy schedule, there are plenty of ways for you to get involved in your children’s education. Extending education from the classroom to the living room is a great way to expand their learning experience.

The first step to getting involved in your children’s education is to know what they will be learning this year in school. Stay current with the topics that are covered in class and in homework assignments and think of creative ways to bring learning into their lives outside of school. For example, if your child is learning about American history, plan a weekend trip to a museum to learn more about it and have him or her keep a journal of all the cool things he or she saw to share with the class on Monday. If they are working on creative writing in class, ask your children to write you a short story or play that they can either read to you before they go to sleep or perform for you right in the living room. Keep an eye out for different activities you can do at home that connect to what they are learning in class.



Contributed by Solomon Brenner Author of Black Belt; Parenting “The Art of Raising Your Child for Success,” Master Brenner uses the Action Karate to teach self control so your child will not lose his temper, be disrespectful, cry to easily and accept responsibility. Contact him at Solomon@phillyfitmagazine.com