

# Five ways to make the most of your child's report card

Report card time can make parents almost as nervous as students. Is your child on track? Is he learning what he needs to know? Are you doing all you can to support him in school?

Use your child's report card as an opportunity to review his progress in school and talk about your expectations. Be sure to:

1. Take it seriously. A report card can't tell you everything about how your child is doing, but your child's teacher spends a lot of time making sure that the report card shows a snapshot of where your child is now. Read it carefully.
2. Remain calm—especially if your child's grades weren't what you'd expected. Wait until you can talk calmly about what you and your child can do to improve his grades.
3. Find something to praise. Did your child earn a higher grade in math than he did last year? Did the teacher make positive comments about his behavior or work habits?
4. Let your child know what you expect. Say things like, "You don't have to be the best. But I do expect you to do your best." Remind him that effort is as important as ability.
5. Contact the teacher if you or your child has any questions about his report card.

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