

# Positivity is key when talking to your child about grades

Your child's report card came home and it was disappointing. You know she has the ability to do well. Her teachers have told you that every year. But she doesn't work up to her potential. What should you do?

The most important thing to remember is to keep your emotions in check. Getting angry or showing your disappointment just won't help. Instead, look for ways to encourage your child to do the best she can.

After you have had time to "digest" your child's report card:

- Ask her to talk about her grades. What does she think is going on? Does she complete her class work in school? Is she turning in her homework on time? Does she understand the lessons? Does she think there is anything she could do differently?
- Talk with her teacher. Are there any issues at school? Discuss ways you can work together to boost your child's performance. Perhaps your child could stay after school for extra help.
- Enforce a regular homework time. During that time, the TV should be off and the computer should be used only for studying. Set a timer for 20 minutes, then let her take a short break before getting back to work.
- Offer support. Provide help when necessary, but don't ever do your child's homework for her. Let your child take responsibility for completing her work. It's the only way she will get the practice she needs to succeed in school and in life.

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