

July 1, 2019
5:00 – 7:30pm
Central Library

Theme: Inspiring life-long learning

It's important to help kids find inspiration and to feel comfortable expressing their creative ideas.

INSPIRATION



Research shows that kids engaged in activities tend to have better grades, higher self-esteem, better time-management skills, and are less likely to do drugs, drink, or drop out of school.

If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his classroom. Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas.

Here's how you can help to inspire life-long learning and academic achievement.

- **Fill your child's world with reading.** Take turns reading with your older child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads her own book. Demonstrate how important reading is to you by filling your home with printed materials: novels, newspapers, even posters and placemats with words on them.
- **Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.** He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
- **Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.** If she's a horse nut, offer her stories about riding or help her to find five facts about horses.
- **Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles — from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing.** Supplies that encourage open-ended play, such as blocks, will develop your child's creative expression and problem-solving skills as he builds. He'll need lots of unstructured play time to explore them.
- **Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm.** Discuss the different ways you find new information, whether you're looking for gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class.
- Turn everyday events into learning opportunities. Encourage him to explore the world around him, asking questions and making connections.

- **Look at Art and Listen to Music.** Take kids to explore at the museum, or encourage them to listen to music. Have them read books by different types of authors and make sure they spend time enjoying nature
- **Record all ideas.** Encourage kids to record or draw their ideas in a special notebook or in a designated document on the computer. Kids should keep track of their ideas whenever they feel inspired so that they won't lose any important insights or creative thoughts.
- **Make mistakes.** Give your child permission to make mistakes. If she has to do things perfectly, she'll never take the risks necessary to discover and develop a gift.
- **Ask questions.** Help your child open up to he wonders of the world by asking intriguing questions: Why is the sky blue? Find the answers together.
- **Plan special family projects.** Shared creativity can awaken and develop new talents.



Children are interested in nearly everything. Curiosity takes courage. When we honor a child's interests we help them feel safe enough to go take risks. As a result they open themselves up to new experiences.



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