

THE ONE ABOUT PARENTS AND GRADES

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THE STUDY

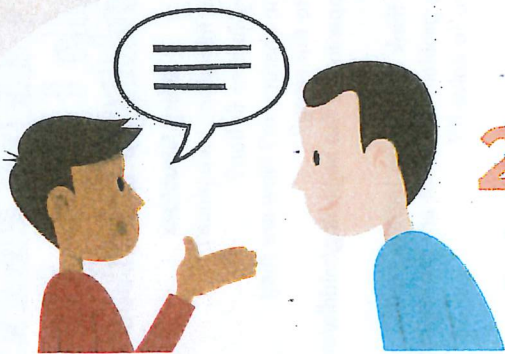
It is one of the most common and important questions that parents ask teachers at parents evening—"what can I do to best help support my child?". So researchers reviewed 37 studies on the effects of parental behaviours and attitudes on childrens' grades. This involved a sample of over 80,000 students and their families. They then made suggestions as to what does and doesn't work.

THE MAIN FINDINGS

Their study found that four of the best things a parent can do at primary and secondary school level to help their child's grades are:

1 Have high academic expectations

Having high aspirations and expectations of your child **has the biggest impact** on their grades. Parental expectations include how important school is, their attitude towards teachers, and the value of education.



2 Regular communication

This includes developing and maintaining communication with children about their school life. This **helps parents nip any potential problems** in the bud before they manifest into bigger issues.

3 Good reading habits

This involves **reading frequently and regularly with your child**. This includes reading to them and encouraging them to read alongside you as well.



4 Homework rules

This revolves around having clear rules to deal with how they divide their homework and leisure time. Explaining why these rules are in place **can help them to make better decisions** regarding their independent study time later in their school career.

By contrast they found that behaviours such as parental attendance of school activities and supervising homework did not make a significant impact on grades.

Ref: Castro et al, 2015, *Infant and Child Development*

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