



Learning journey begins at home

• Lailani P. Garin

“A learning journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step at home.”

Molding children’s literacy never starts at school — it starts at home. Our child’s first teacher must be their parents. Hence, the nature and nurture of children are significantly essential to develop their skills and abilities effectively. A study conducted by Harvard Family Research in 2006 proved that family involvement matters for young children’s social and cognitive development. Moreover, they believe that “for children and youth to be thriving from birth through teens, there must be an array of educational support around them.” And this array of support is the family.

If we, parents, want our children to effectively mold their skills early, we must start training them at home. First, we must motivate our children to learn. Studies show that the attention span of children is much shorter compared to other age groups. Therefore, we must develop a set of strategies to stir up our children’s excitement to learn. We can implement a reward system to compensate with something our child wants every time he/she knows something.

Another way to encourage them to study is to develop an atmosphere for learning. Providing them with a room filled with reading materials such as children’s storybooks, colorful posters, and flashcards will facilitate more excitement in learning leading the children to participate more. We can also try other learning strategies by incorporating our child’s interests to engage them further. If our child has interests in dinosaurs, we can decorate the room with dinosaur-themed learning materials. We can also print out learning sheets with dinosaur themes to stimulate fun and enthusiasm.

Second, we must get involved in our children’s learning by talking, singing and reading aloud with them. This encourages them to keep on learning because they know that we are with them in every step of their learning process. We must also let them know that we believe in them. It would be best to tell our children that we believe in their capabilities to learn at an early age.

Third, we must inculcate discipline in learning. We need to put away distractions for our child’s education. Limit the

usage of gadgets and time spent watching television. This allows a more focused learning environment for children. Another way to instill discipline in children is to teach them to be organized. Let us help our them



Hannah and Francine enjoy reading bedtime stories.

arrange his papers, books, and other learning materials in order. Having a disordered learning environment makes them feel overwhelmed. Overwhelmed children spend more time and effort being worried and frustrated than they do in learning.

Lastly, we must recognize our children’s achievements no matter how small it is. This is especially important for elementary-aged children who require constant positive reinforcement to keep them motivated to learn and challenge themselves to do better. This does not suggest that we praise mediocrity but offer recognition and celebrate our children’s achievements. Finishing a complex project deserves a special treat; doing well on a math test could call for a trip to get ice cream. Always use positive reinforcement as a tool to motivate learning with children.

Most good students are not born good learners. If we want to maximize our children’s potential, we must invest time and effort to inspire our children to start learning at home. Often, we can easily distinguish children who are well-taught in their homes from those who are not. Early learning pays for excellent results. So, let us begin our child’s literacy journey by taking a single step — at home.

LITERACY JOURNEY



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