

PARENT'S ULTIMATE EDUCATION GUIDE
Seven Secrets of How to Study

Special Edition

Author: Dr. Stephen Jones

ULTIMATE PARENT'S GUIDE

Here are the 10 benefits of learning how to prepare your student for college:

- *You will uncover scholarships and grants for college* - The cost of college and trade school increases each year, you need more scholarships and financial aid. Helping your child to improve their grades increases their eligibility for scholarships and grants.
- *You will increase your child's chances of gaining admission to college* Admissions officers observe a student's progress beginning with the ninth grade. A parent can help their student to earn better grades in high school by knowing when to get a tutor.
- *Students obtain better jobs* - Students who attend college and complete a degree obtain better jobs and earn a \$1,000,000 more over their lifetime.
- *Learn how to create a better study environment* - Parents who learn how to improve their home study environment improve their son/daughters' grades.
- *Improve your student's motivation to graduate* - You will learn how to motivate your student's active involvement in school activities.
- *Learn how to improve your student's focus* - You will learn how reading can improve your child's chances of remembering important facts.
- *Learn how to form a positive relationship with teachers* - Your student's teachers will look forward to helping you to educate your child at home.
- *Learn how to find money for college* - Learn how to create an effective financial plan. You can begin to save for college without all of the stress.
- *Improve your son/daughter's chances of college success* - You will begin to implement strategies in high school that make the adjustment to college life easy.



Chapter One

PARENTING 101

A LEARNING FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT Getting Started

Every parent wants his or her son or daughter to have a successful K-12 school experience. Parents are responsible for helping their students to have successful elementary, middle and high school experiences. It is important that the home environment lend itself to learning. Parents must organize the appropriate resources to help their child to learn. It's important to have a location that is off limits to noise. You may need to actually print up a sign that says "Quiet Study Room" and post it on the door.

Your children should know that you are in favor of them maximizing their ability to learn. You are committed to purchasing a desk, books, computer and other resources that are the tools for learning. Students need to expand their knowledge through the resources that are available to them in their home. A dictionary is a good resource that will help a student to understand terms that are important. Watching television should become an educational experience. Programs watched should focus on history, science and the environment. Many of these programs can be found on the Public Broadcasting System.

Choose something that you and your child can view that causes your child to think and ask questions. You should willingly discuss money, important topics in the news and community affairs. Surround your children with peers who will have a positive influence on their academic goals. Invite their friends to your home and encourage them to form study groups. Serving food always helps. Try to create an environment where learning is a positive experience. There are many resources that you can purchase at bookstores to keep your child excited about learning. Fill your home with hundreds of books about history, politics, science, and nature. Frequently go on a book shopping adventure at Borders, Barnes and Nobles or a thrift store. You can bring the world to your students just by letting them read about other countries.

FAST TIPS

- *Parents must begin by guiding their child's learning experience*
- *Say NO to television time and turn it into reading time.*

PARENTING 101

Choose A Place to Study

Finding a location to study may sound like a simple task, but in many cases it is not. The place a student studies is a critical aspect of a successful study session. This place should remind a student of past accomplishments in math, science and English. Those particular tests should be posted in their room.

There are several things you can do to make a location a good place to study. The first thing is to choose a spot that everyone knows is off limits to loud noises, like television or radio. Some students think that they should be entertained while they study, however loud noises serve as a distraction to the brain and it will limit your student's ability to absorb information. Studying in a quiet environment will allow your child to maximize his understanding and to enjoy the learning experience. The sooner that a parent institutes a practice of encouraging their student to study in a quiet environment, the sooner the child will develop this habit for life.

Secondly, identify a desk or table in an environment that has good lighting. The eyes are the gateway to learning. Light enables the individual to clearly see the material that they are studying. A dim light can cause a student to strain their eyes, which can result in headaches. Finding the proper location is important to help your child understand that you consider his learning experience a priority. Sometimes you may need to take your son or daughter to the library so that he or she can experience a different type of learning environment. The earlier you take your child to the library, the better the opportunity to help him/her understand that the library is a valuable resource for information when completing term papers and other types of assignments.



FAST TIPS

- *Consistently remind your child to study in a quiet environment.*
- *Visit a library to provide an alternate place for your child to study.*

Resources That Help

Every student should have the appropriate tools for learning. Create or buy a supply closet so that you will have a central place for your children to find their supplies. You should also place bookshelves with different resource books throughout your home. Erasers, pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, colored paper, and cardboard should also be on hand. These are things that a student needs to get started. These basic items can be purchased at the local dollar store and should be easily accessible to your child.

Other items include several rulers and highlighting materials that your child can use on special projects. You may also want to go to a specialty store to get items that are useful for projects, such as artificial grass, trees and other art materials. Folders, three ring binders, clear plastic covers, paper clips and other types of clips should be purchased to ensure that the student organizes papers in such a way that the instructor will easily understand them.

Keeping documents organized is an important part of the learning process. Students will be required to write different types of papers throughout the year. Parents should understand that papers should be typed on plain white paper, however there also may be different types of papers required. Make sure your child purchases the appropriate type of paper. A project could require construction paper or even resume paper. All can be purchased at the local store. These resources can help a student give an effective presentation or adequately complete homework assignments. Some other stores you might want to frequent for supplies include Staples, K-mart, Wal-Mart, local dollar stores, arts and crafts stores and hobby shops. At these stores you will find all kinds of creative items for projects that are assigned throughout the year. Projects can account for one third of a students' grade so don't discount the importance of seeking out the best quality materials to help your son or daughter complete them.