

10 Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

If you want your child to be a stellar cadet, don't limit learning to the walls of his/her classroom. Although the skills they are learning are crucial to their intellectual and social growth, your cadet needs your help to open up the world of ideas. Their renewed joy in discovery will transfer to their schoolwork, so you will boost their academic achievement too!

1. **Fill your cadet's world with reading.** Take turns reading with your older child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads their 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.
2. **Encourage your cadet to express their opinion, talk about their feelings, and make choices.** They can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select their own extracurricular activities. Ask for their input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
3. **Show enthusiasm for your cadet's interests and encourage them to explore subjects that fascinate them.** If they are a horse nut, offer them stories about riding or challenge them to find five facts about horses in the encyclopedia.
4. **Provide them 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 cadet's creative expression and problem-solving skills as they build. They'll need lots of unstructured playtime to explore them.
5. **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 in American literature.
6. **Ask about what your cadet is learning in school, not about their grades or test scores.** Have them teach you what they learned in school today - putting the lesson into their own words will help them retain what they have learned.
7. **Help your cadet organize their school papers and assignments so they feel in control of their work.** If their task seems too

- daunting, they'll spend more time worrying than learning. Check in regularly to make sure they are not feeling overloaded.
8. **Celebrate achievements, no matter how small.** Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your cadet an hour of video games. You'll offer positive reinforcement that will inspire them to keep learning and challenging themselves.
 9. **Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents.** Even if they didn't ace their math test, they may have written a good poem in ELA. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give them a writing journal.
 10. **Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.** Encourage them to explore the world around them, asking questions and making connections.