

Reading your student's report

School reports can mean anxious times for parents and students. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

When you open the school report do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths rather than focus purely on areas that need improving.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard then you and your child or young person have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort then you can't ask any more than that regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of how your child is progressing as

an individual in a social setting. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly rated by employers these days so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about their strengths first before looking at areas needing improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your children's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.



Quick Parenting Quiz

- Which of the following statements places the responsibility for behaviour onto the child?
 - Darling, could you hop in the car please so I can take you to school?
 - Get in the car NOW!!!
 - I'm leaving for school in five minutes.
 - If you get in the car now I'll buy you a treat after school.
- The percentage of parents who would secretly search their children's diary if they suspected if their children were involved in dangerous or unlawful activities:
 - 24%
 - 57%
 - 67%
 - 92%

Answers: 1c) 2b)

Vitamins for parents

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind.

- Are your expectations for your son or daughter in line with their abilities?
- Do you hold the belief that children learn at different rates?
- Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Bright idea



Short-term goals for learning

Many children, especially boys respond favourably to short-term goals. General requests such as 'improve that spelling' or 'spend more time practising..' are often lost on young learners. It is more effective to keep children and young people focused on short-term objectives such as getting a certain weekly score in spelling or practising for a concert that is coming up. Teach them how to set daily or weekly goals in many areas of their lives and then remind them to check if they reached them. Reaching a short-term goal is a tremendous motivator for anyone! Having reached a goal then it is important to reset and refocus on another goal.

Wise & Witty Words

"Insanity is hereditary. We get it from our children."

Unknown

"The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated."

William James