

10 Ways to Help Your Kindergarten Student to Succeed!

1. **Fill your home with lots of books, magazines, and software!** Children need access to a variety of literature at various reading levels to be successful. Books not only expand their future vocational opportunities and hobbies, but foster creativity as well. Books can also become a stress management tool and a relaxing escape for bright students.
2. **Give your child choices.** Children strive to become autonomous people. Giving them choices allows them some control over their life. When you give your child choices, it makes them feel respected and valued in your eyes. As they grow older, you can increase the importance of the choices you give them to foster independence.
3. **Set a good example.** Students may be more sensitive to morals and values than the typical student. Setting a good example will let your child know that you also value good morals. Volunteering with your child is a great way to set a good example and also helps you build a strong relationship with your child.
4. **Let your child have time with both same-age peers and same-ability level peers.** Relationships with peers give the gifted child the opportunity to communicate ideas, understand other points of view, and learn important social skills. Providing time for your child to foster close relationships will also improve your relationship with your child.
5. **Provide your child opportunities to be exposed to the creative arts.** Help your child find a creative outlet such as music, dance, art, or drama to explore their creative ability. In contrast to academic activities, there is no limit to the creativity that can be expressed through the arts. Creative opportunities your child enjoys now can develop into lifelong skills and passions.
6. **Have patience with your child.** Children can possess traits that many find difficult to deal with such as bossiness, perfectionism, excessive questioning, inappropriate humor, excessive talking, and interrupting. These can be redirected into positive characteristics that will help them become successful adults such as perseverance, leadership skills, curiosity, and empathy.
7. **Talk with your child.** No one knows how your child is doing in school better than themselves. Establishing a close relationship with your child allows them to trust you and opens the line of communication for if problems arise. Check in with your child regularly. Ask them what you can do to help them be and feel successful.
8. **Set reasonable expectations.** Encourage your child to do great things, but be careful to not pressure them to overachieve. It is important for gifted children to learn at a level and pace that is appropriate for them. Many gifted children put an unhealthy amount of pressure on themselves to be perfect. Be your child's cheerleader to try to prevent unhealthy perfectionism.
9. **Establish a relationship with your child's teacher.** It is essential to work together with your gifted child's teacher to develop the most appropriate curriculum and accommodations for your child. Advocate for your child's needs to the best education possible. Ask for suggestions on things you can do at home with your child to extend on the lessons they are doing in school.
10. **Most importantly, love and care for your gifted child.** You establish the foundation for the rest of their life. Establishing a close relationship early in life will help them be successful later in life. Support them in whatever they do and remember to praise their accomplishments, no matter how small!

Works Cited

¹Clark, B. (2007). *Growing up gifted*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. ²DeVries, A.R. (2003). Appropriate expectations for the gifted child. *Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted*. Retrieved from http://www.sengifted.org/articles_social/DeVries_AppropriateExpectationsForTheGiftedChild.shtml ³Griffin, G. (2001). Parenting gifted adolescents. *Gifted Child Today*, 24(2), 54. Retrieved from Professional Development Collection database.