

# Setting High Expectations for your Child

There is nothing more powerful than setting high expectations for your child's future.

Research shows that high expectations have a great impact on your child's school achievement. From the time your child begins school until he/she graduates from high school, your expectations and your belief in the importance of education can motivate your child to fulfill his/her dreams. Below are ten tips for setting high expectations for your child:

1. **Communicate high expectations.** Let your child know that you expect him/her to do his/her very best.
2. **Clearly describe to your child the behavior you want to see.** For example, "I want you to improve your science grade by the end of the semester" or "I expect you to do your chores each week."
3. **Make certain your expectations are both reasonable and achievable.** Expecting your child to come up two letter grades in a subject that he/she is struggling in, for example, may not be appropriate.
4. **Set short-term goals.** Help your child set a goal that both of you know he/she can achieve. Once the goal is achieved, set another.
5. **Check in along the way.** Pay attention to how your child is doing towards achieving his/her goal. Offer support to him/her and readjust goals that seem to high or too low.
6. **Be consistent.** Don't lower your expectations because you feel guilty for missing your child's soccer game. Don't raise them because you've had a rough day.
7. **Avoid labeling your child.** Statements like, "You'll be a failure unless you get good grades" can make your child feel like he's already failed. Instead, focus on what your child has achieved.
8. **Praise your child's efforts.** If your child is really trying, let him/her know you notice—even if she doesn't meet all your expectations.
9. **Expect more.** Never underestimate your child. Encourage him/her to explore awards programs and competitions that bolster learning in the classroom.

