1. Have your child color code class materials. Give him a different color folder for each class. He can cover his textbooks in matching colors.
2. Help your child set goals for the school year and plan how to reach them.
3. With your child, decide on a daily homework and study time.
4. Tell your child that her education is important to you and that you expect her to give her best effort.
5. Allow your child plenty of free time for reading.
6. Eliminate technology distractions during homework time. Turn off all devices that aren’t being used for learning.
7. Offer your middle schooler a choice of chores to do. Let him pick one of three options.
8. Tell your child why you appreciate her today.
9. Encourage your child to write a letter to a faraway friend or relative.
10. Ask your child questions about school each day to get an idea about what he is learning.
11. Discuss the summer. Ask your child to name three things she learned.
12. Encourage your child to keep a notebook handy when reading. He can jot down unknown words and look them up later.
13. Think of synonyms with your child, such as walk/strut and stop/halt.
14. Have a “stay-up-late” night. Let your child stay up as late as she wants, as long as she’s reading.
15. Practice estimating with your child. How many popcorn kernels will fit in your hand? How many grains of rice fit in a tablespoon?
16. Set a technology curfew. Pick a time when all TVs, computers, tablets and phones must be turned off for the night.
17. Solve a crossword puzzle with your child.
18. Review the rules you have for your child. Are they still appropriate for his age?
19. Teach your child a useful new skill, such as how to do laundry.
20. Ask your child to tell you about the similarities and the differences between her classes.
21. Choose a recipe with your child. Shop for ingredients, cook and enjoy the results together.
22. Let your child see you reading often. This teaches him that reading is important and fun.
23. Help your child make a budget.
24. Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for homework. It’s a great way to reinforce learning.
25. Do some research on drug abuse. Make sure you and your child have the latest facts.
26. Is your child turning assignments in on time? Praise his responsibility.
27. Ask your child to tell you about one of her teachers.
28. Make library trips a regular part of your family schedule. Check out a book about careers with your child.
29. Make an album or slideshow of family photos with your child.
30. Have you met your child’s teachers? If not, set up appointments soon.