



By Skip Forsyth

My Educational Journey

I remember my first days of school, September of '61. As the bus slowed to a stop and doors swung open my mom tightly clasped my hand, tears rolled down her cheeks, and she whispered, "Be good!" My fingers slowly slipped out of her hand as I climbed aboard and waved at her through the window. That was the beginning of my educational journey.

In kindergarten and first grade I learned my ABCs and my first three letter words, but those years emphasized socialization. I learned playground etiquette, for example: sliding off the teeter-totter when Charlie is in the air results in time-out. I learned classroom etiquette, for example: pulling the chair away when Carol is about to sit results in swats. I figured out all us kids are in this together so we better learn to get along.

Grades two through four were about routines. I learned phonetics, homonyms and synonyms, memorized the state capitals and my times table, and lots of other stuff. Yet, impressed in my memory are the routines. Penmanship practice Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m., reading time for 30 minutes either right before or right after lunch depending upon the grade, spelling tests Friday at 10 a.m., book reports due the first week of every month. When I walked to the cafeteria or gymnasium or library I did so in a straight line without as much as a whisper.

Junior high was about transition. My family moved from a small town in New Hampshire to the New York City suburbs in New Jersey. New school. New friends. New teachers. New challenges. New opportunities, and some new anxieties. I went from a big fish in a small pond to a small fish in a big pond. I learned, sometimes painfully, to adjust to the new normal called middle school. Additionally, junior high was about liberation. I struggled to assert my independence, but not to risk being too different from my peers. Nevertheless, an internal voice whispered, "You are unique, follow your own path."

High school, college, and beyond are about a lifetime of navigation to your destiny. Robert Frost penned, "Two roads diverged in a wood and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." I have not always possessed the courage to choose the one less traveled by; while other times I went wildly off track. Thankfully I have had loving family and loyal friends to beckon me back toward my objective. I am still very much on my journey pressing upward. In life, as when hiking a trail, I prefer to pursue the higher ground.

Dear families and educators, during this school year assist your child in their journey. Equip them and encourage them as they begin to identify their own path. Each child is trekking toward a unique destination. Guide them with love and wisdom and gently urge them to persevere. As you travel through the 2015-16 school year, may you witness new vistas of achievement.

I Love My Children

I am your *parent*, you are my *child*,
I am your *quiet place*, you are my *wild*,

I am your *calm face*, you are my *giggle*,
I am your *compass*, you are my *wiggle*,

I am your *dinner*, you are my *chocolate cake*,
I am your *bedtime*, you are my *wide awake*,

I am your *lullaby*, you are my *peekaboo*,
I am your *goodnight kiss*, you are my

I LOVE YOU.

<http://www.daveswordsofwisdom.com/>





School children have different nutritional needs to those of preschoolers or toddlers. Once children start school, their energy requirements increase as they become more active and grow more quickly. School children usually have a high energy requirement for their size and require foods that are high in energy but also rich in nutrients.

A good supply of protein, calcium, iron and vitamins A and D is necessary during the primary school years. Calcium is needed for healthy tooth development and, together with vitamin D, helps make bones stronger. Of course, most kids would love to live on chips, convenience food and all the other things parents know have very little or no nutritional value — so how can parents get their children to eat their protein, fruits and veggies?

The first step is to be creative. Children, especially those that are younger, love to eat food that is fun to look at, as well as fun to eat.

Healthy sandwich ideas the kids won't turn their nose up at:

- Try using a variety of breads to keep things interesting. Bread rolls, baguettes, bagels, mountain bread and crisp bread crackers can break up the monotony of a peanut butter sandwich on sliced white.
- Try making sandwiches with one slice white and one of whole meal, or use white bread with added fiber.
- Use spreads like butter or margarine sparingly and try using sticky fillings that pack in some nutrients. A smear of avocado or hummus might do the trick.

How to add more fruit and veggies to a lunch box:

- Use fruit and vegetables from all colors of the rainbow, as they offer a wide range of vitamins and minerals.
- Seasonal varieties that are easy to peel and eat are good choices.
- Peeling and chopping fruit and vegetables into ready-to-eat bite-sized pieces makes them more appealing.

Don't forget to keep kids hydrated:

- A drink bottle is important to make sure busy and active kids stay hydrated.
- Water is the best fluid to serve, but if your child won't drink water, try diluted fruit juices.

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/Back-to-School-Lunch-box-nutrition-Healthy-lunch-box-ideas+3942+181+article.htm>

About Teen



Suicide

The tragedy of a young person dying because of overwhelming hopelessness or frustration is devastating to family, friends, and community. Parents, siblings, classmates, coaches, and neighbors might be left wondering if they could have done something to prevent that young person from turning to suicide.

Warning Signs

Suicide among teens often occurs following a stressful life event, such as problems at school, a breakup with a boyfriend or girlfriend, the death of a loved one, a divorce, or a major family conflict.

Teens who are thinking about suicide might:

- talk about suicide or death in general
- give hints that they might not be around anymore
- talk about feeling hopeless or feeling guilty
- pull away from friends or family
- write songs, poems, or letters about death, separation, and loss
- start giving away treasured possessions to siblings or friends
- lose the desire to take part in favorite things or activities
- have trouble concentrating or thinking clearly
- experience changes in eating or sleeping habits
- engage in risk-taking behaviors
- lose interest in school or sports

What Can Parents Do?

Many teens who commit or attempt suicide have given some type of warning to loved ones ahead of time. So it's important for parents to know the warning signs so teens who might be suicidal can get the help they need.

Some adults feel that kids who say they are going to hurt or kill themselves are "just doing it for attention." It's important to realize that if teens are ignored when seeking attention, it may increase the chance of them harming themselves (or worse).

Getting attention in the form of ER visits, doctor's appointments, and residential treatment generally is not something teens want — unless they're seriously depressed and thinking about suicide or at least wishing they were dead. It's important to see warning signs as serious, not as "attention-seeking" to be ignored.

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/suicide.html#>

By SUZAN CLARKE

One of the hardest things about going **back to school** is getting back into the swing of things.

It's hard for children and parents, who have had months away from the rigidly scheduled days of classes, homework, sports practice and other extracurricular activities.

The following are tips for getting back into the groove.

▪ **Put bedtime battles to rest now.** If you start a week or two before the first day of school, you can slowly adjust the lax summer sleep schedule to a school night bedtime. Put your children to bed 10 minutes earlier each night – that way the switch from 9:30 to 8 won't be such a shock.

▪ **Take your organizing online.** Several websites exist to help you organize information (contacts, lists, tasks) in one place. Check out [Got Family Get Organized](#), [Evernote](#), and [Remember the Milk](#).

▪ **Prepare for the deluge ... of forms, that is.** In the coming weeks, you'll be getting everything from school supplies lists to health forms to permission slips to contact lists. Think through the organization of all that information now. Collect all forms you receive for each child and go through them at one time with your child(ren). Set up a filing system for everything. (You might consider scanning the forms to your computer, keeping a digital record rather than a cluttered paper trail.)

▪ **Post your child's class schedule somewhere you can see.** You're guaranteed a better response when you ask "What games did you play in PE today?" or "What did Mrs. Martin show you in art?" rather than "How was school?"

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Parenting/back-school-complete-checklist-parents/print?id=11407354>



▪ **Keep receipts.** Sure, the magenta ink pens look cool in the store, but what happens if your child gets to school and the teacher requires they use pencil only? Also, you never know if there will be new dress code rules to comply with. If you retain receipts when you go school shopping, you won't be out the cash if you've bought the wrong thing.

▪ **Volunteer your time or expertise.** Dozens of research studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their school do better academically and socially. Teachers appreciate parents who volunteer to come into the classroom or who are willing to raise funds for needed supplies or to advocate on their behalf.

▪ **Run inside and play.** This year, when you get home from work and school, don't jump into the chores. Rather, make it a point to spend at least 15 to 30 minutes connecting as a family: play a game, take a walk, snuggle on the couch. This simple tweak in your evening schedule will do wonders to reduce whining, sibling rivalry and marital strife.

▪ **Shop your closets before hitting the stores.** You never know what you might find. There may be barely used or new school supplies, forgotten clothes, or an older backpack that's suddenly trendy again.

10 Questions to Ask Your Child About His Day at School

Get a sense of your child's life at school by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response.



1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
4. Tell me about what you read in class.
5. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
6. Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
7. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
8. What rules are different at school than our rules at home?
Do you think they're fair?
9. Who did you sit with at lunch?
10. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?



A GOOD PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT

for making the most of the school year. Yet so many parents fail to communicate with their child's teacher properly, or worse, say or do something to damage the relationship. Primary school teachers reveal the 10 things every teacher wished parents knew to help you be the best parent in class.

✓ Have a set morning routine

Kids thrive on routine and a structured morning routine will set your child up for the day. Mornings should always include a big, nutritious breakfast. If your usual routine includes television, just be aware that children who watch TV in the morning are not in the right frame of mind for school. Instead, give your child responsibilities to increase their independence, such as making their beds or packing their own bags.

✓ Be on time every time

Teachers love parents who respect bell times. Being late to school means your child walks into a lesson that is already underway. It is embarrassing for your child and it can take them a while to settle down and focus on the lesson.

✓ Know your child's timetable

Your child will feel more comfortable about school if you are on top of their routine. Have a weekly calendar listing everything that is going on at school, such as library day, sports day, and project due dates.

✓ Think about what you share with your child

Some parents talk about how they don't want their baby to start school or go on camp because they will miss them. Children take these things literally. Parents should not put their worries on their child. Your anxieties become their anxieties. Talk about it later with your partner and save your tears until then.

✓ Keep an open mind

As kids are not developed enough mentally to take in all perspectives of an event, keep an open mind when children are telling you about a school incident. You may hear a story from them about something that happened at school. If it upsets you, ask questions and think about what seems to make the most sense. If you are still unhappy, talk to your child's teacher about it.

✓ A thank you goes a long way!

Teachers often say that we never see a parent unless they have a problem with something. Teachers always love a smile, a wave, or a quick chat with parents.

✓ Teachers wear many hats but can't be responsible for everything

Primary school teachers are responsible for many different jobs and teach a range of different subjects. But they are not responsible for everything to do with your child. They are not qualified doctors, speech therapists, or nutritionists so try not to take offense if they refer your child to someone with more specific knowledge.

✓ The teacher is on your side

Teachers care about your child and have their best interests at heart. They teach because they love children. Yes, even yours.

Taken in part from an article by by Lynne Hughes <http://www.kidspot.com.au/Back-to-School-For-parents-10-things-teachers-wished-you-knew+6361+153+article.htm>

A B C s Of Student Success

Written by Addie Gaines, principal at Kirbyville (Missouri) Elementary School, these 26 mini-essays emphasize the important role that parents play in the achievement of your school's students.

(The previous issue featured letters O thru T.)

U is for UNIQUE.

It sounds cliché, but it's true — your child is unique, unlike anyone else!

- Oprah once mentioned that parents should “light up” when their child walks into a room. How special is that?
- Let your child know what you appreciate about him. Point out his or her special accomplishments and talents.
- Nurture your child's special interests by providing related experiences and books.
- Spend time with others who share your appreciation of your child's uniqueness.

V is for VIPs.

Who are some of the Very Important People in our school? Our teachers of course! Teachers plan interesting lessons, assess reading levels, grade assignments, answer questions, lead discussions, guide activities, solve problems, and settle debates. Teachers watch the playground, supervise the cafeteria, tie shoes, button coats, dry tears... Most of all, teachers care about kids. Take a little time in the week ahead to remember to thank your favorite teachers. A little encouragement can make a big difference!

W is for WISDOM.

Wisdom is learning born from experiences, both positive and negative. You can develop wisdom in your child by...

- allowing him or her to make choices and know the consequences of the choices.
- encouraging children to reflect on what they learn through their experiences. Would he do it again? Would she do it differently?
- helping children recognize the effects their actions have on people and situations.
- observing and pointing out the actions and consequences of others' behaviors.

X is for EXPLORE.

Children are naturally curious about many things. Providing opportunities to explore their interests is a great way to help them learn.

- Encourage children to seek answers to their own questions.
- Buy books that capitalize on their interests and help them learn more. (Even better, visit the library.)
- Support hobbies by providing supplies and complimenting their efforts. Better yet, join in the fun!
- Visit museums and other places of interest.

Y is for YESTERDAY.

How can you nurture your child's interest in the past?

- You and your child can learn about your family's history by creating a family tree.
- Share what life was like when you were a child. Interview grandparents about what life was like when they were children.
- Create a scrapbook or photo album and fill it with old family pictures and mementos.
- Preserve tomorrow's memories by journaling or creating a time capsule of the present. Your children will thank you!

Z is for ZOOMED.

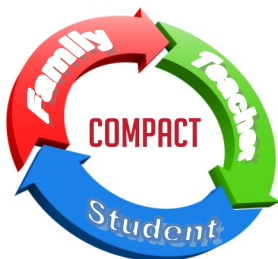
The school year has *zoomed* by! It has been a great year full of learning and fun. Thank you, parents, for supporting our school and encouraging your child all year long. Thank you, teachers and assistants, for coming up with interesting ways to learn. And thanks to our custodians, secretaries, bus drivers, and cooks who keep us all safe, informed, on time, and well fed. Finally, thank you students! You gave your best efforts. You grew in so many ways. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you next school year.

WHAT IS THE TELLTALE SIGN YOUR KIDS NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?

It's a simple sign. If they're breathing. Kids crave praise from their parents. When is the last time you sat down, looked your children in the eye, and told them why you're proud of them? Don't just assume they know. They won't get it by osmosis. Tell them specifically. And tell them often. You have a lot of negative cultural messages to combat. Start the encouragement counter-attack tonight at dinner.



THE SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT



The school-parent compact, along with the parental involvement policy, is a keystone document for a school to provide an effective family engagement program. The school-parent compact is passion in print. The school-parent compact is like a compass pointing toward the destination "student success." It is a written agreement of shared responsibility for home and school to work together to improve student achievement. The compact provides an opportunity to create new partnerships in the school community.

Research indicates when educators and families work together for student learning, children enjoy school more (improved morale), do better in school (improved achievement), and stay in school longer (improved attendance and graduation rate). If the compact is implemented with fidelity, it will assure there will be support for the academic success of the student by enhancing effective communications between home and school. When developed with the input of all concerned parties, the compact can serve as a valuable tool to meaningfully engage the school and the home in supporting the academic development and needs of the students.

A SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT SHOULD ADDRESS:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- Ways parents can support their child's learning
- Ways students will be responsible for learning
- The importance of on-going two-way communication
- Activities to help build stronger home-school partnerships

Also, to the extent practicable, the compact should be provided in a format and language the families can understand.

All schools receiving Title I Part A funds are required to develop a compact with the participation of parents and to distribute the compact to families. Look for your school's 2015-16 school-parent compact in the student handbook or on the school website. Ask the school office or the child's teacher for a copy of the compact. Frequently it is provided at registration or at the back-to-school night/annual meeting or at a PTA/PTO meeting. In elementary schools "a parent-teacher conference is required, at least annually, where the compact is discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement."

Tips for Parents for an Effective Parent-Teacher Conference

EXPECTATIONS: A two-way conversation; an emphasis on learning; and suggestions for opportunities and challenges to be more involved with your child's learning.

ASK QUESTIONS: How is your child progressing; inquire about assignments and assessments; how to support learning at home and/or at school; and in what areas does your child need to make improvement.

FOLLOW-UP: Agree to a plan of action; schedule another time to talk and discuss progress; and talk to your child.

Moms



Dads

Advice for Moms with Daughters

Tell them they're smart at least as much as you tell them they're pretty. Society does a great job of letting them know they need to be attractive, and not such a good job letting them know they need to be intelligent.

Be strong and breed confidence in them. Teach them how to respect themselves and others, regardless of gender.

Remember to breathe. All of the emotions that they are throwing at you, you once threw at your mom or dad. It may seem over the top, dramatic or ridiculous, but it's just a moment in time that you once faced, too.

Be a mom first and friend second. We all want that close relationship with our daughters, but that doesn't mean we have to relive our childhood with them to reach that.

Always give them choices. It will save you a ton of headache and it will also help them grow to be independent decisive women, who don't settle for anything less than their first choice.



Offer unconditional love and respect, and honor each girls' uniqueness.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/01/advice-for-moms-of-girls_n_7350866.html

Hard-Earned Fatherly Wisdom



Sometimes negative guidelines are at least as helpful as positive ones, often more so. It's often useful for a father to know what not to do in a complicated family situation.

DON'T underestimate your children. Have big ambitions for their swift, step-by-step growth into maturity. We all tend to become what we think about, and kids tend to become what their parents expect of them.

DON'T treat teenagers like large children. Think of them, and treat them, as near-adults. Pull them up, fine-tune their consciences, welcome them to adult reality. Show them how to balance a checkbook, pursue a job, work professionally, please their bosses, deal respectfully with the opposite sex.

DON'T ever tell your teens that the high-school years are the best part of their lives. Adolescence is, in fact, one of life's toughest times: teens have to cope with blunders and glandular upheavals, surfing up and down learning curves. Tell your adolescent children, and above all show them, that every stage of life is interesting, challenging, and enjoyable for anyone with a sporting, adventurous spirit.

DON'T let your children weasel out of commitments. Before they make promises or otherwise commit themselves to a course of action, press them to think consequences through and understand their terms, because you will hold them to their word.

<http://www.parentleadership.com/fathers.html>

A child's imagination is one of the purest things on the planet. A child's mind is not yet poisoned by the often harsh realities of real life and because of this, his or her imagination can soar. If you have ever been around a child who is full of imagination, you probably realize how amazing it can be. Kids can come up with the wildest fantasies if they are encouraged to use their imagination, and sometimes these wild fantasies can lead to great things. As a parent, you should encourage your child to use his or her imagination and these are some of the reasons why.

1. **Confidence**- As a parent, you want your child to have confidence and encouraging your child's imagination is a great way to do this. Children often feel as if they have little control over their lives and when they use their imagination to be anything they want to be, it can help build confidence.
2. **Intelligence**- A vibrant imagination can lead to great intelligence. When a child unleashes her imagination, she is using brainpower which will increase intelligence. It takes an intelligent mind to imagine great things, and this can lead to even greater intelligence.
3. **Language Skills**- When children play in a group and use their imaginations to create fun games, they are verbally sharing ideas. When your child learns to express herself in words, this will expand her vocabulary and boost language skills.

These are just a few of the many benefits of encouraging your child to use his or her imagination.



Taken in part from an article by Mick Hamer

<http://www.babylune.com/the-benefits-of-encouraging-your-childs-imagination/>

*"Why fit in when you
were born to stand out?"*

Dr. Suess

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
2015 Statewide Parental Involvement Conference

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

December 10-12, 2015
Arlington, TX

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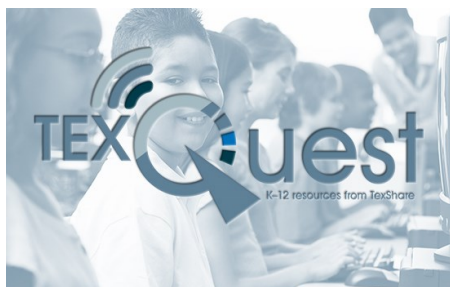
Ask for the 2015 Parental Involvement Conference block of rooms. Register early for best rates!

Online Registration Coming in March!
www.esc16.net
(Click on the Title I Statewide Initiative, 2015 Parental Involvement Conference)

*We look forward to seeing
you in Arlington.*

*If you're interested in
attending please
contact your child's
school to see if there are
funds available.*

by Ann Vyoral, Educational Specialist, Digital Resources, Education Service Center, Region 20, San Antonio, TX



The internet has made it easy for students and parents to access information quickly. However, it isn't easy for young learners (or their families) to know which resources are reputable, accessible, and safe. Parents who want their students to acquire twenty-first century skills can now guide them to TexQuest, supported by an appropriation by the Texas Legislature to supply quality digital resources for all Texas K-12 students attending public and open enrollment charter schools.

Administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, TexQuest includes ebooks; full-text magazines; articles from newspapers, magazines, academic journals, and reference books; and historical documents; along with images, videos, and audio files. Over 95% of eligible

Texas students attend a school that has signed up for TexQuest. Because these resources are available online, students and their families in TexQuest districts have 24/7 access to student friendly resources, aligned with the Texas curriculum, by just connecting to the Internet.

Follow these suggestions for using TexQuest at home so your students can search (and learn) on the Internet safely:

Know how to access the resources. TexQuest has multiple content providers (Gale/Cengage, Britannica School, and Adam Matthew Digital), and multiple ways to access them. Each product can be searched from <http://TexQuest.net> using your student's district/school usernames and passwords; however, most districts also have direct links from their library, school, or district portals. Check with your student's librarian/media specialist for this information or contact the TexQuest Support Center at the email address/phone number below.

Become familiar with resources on your student's grade, interest, or reading level. TexQuest provides resources, aligned with Texas TEKS for all school levels. Check out Gale's *Kids InfoBits* and *National Geographic Kids* for your elementary students, *Research in Context* for your middle school students, and *Student Resources in Context* and *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* for high school. Britannica allows students to choose a content level and then switch to easier or harder articles within that framework. Students who learn best in Spanish have access to several Spanish language resources, along with the opportunity to have most articles translated into Spanish. There are resources for special areas of interest including Adam Matthew Digital's *American West* and *American Indian History and Cultures*; and Gale's *GREENR*, *Health and Wellness*, and *Literature Resource Center*.

Explore the features that make TexQuest articles accessible to all students. Students can take advantage of features to translate resources, highlight and notate selections, and even have articles read aloud. Quick links to high interest articles and videos are provided daily. Students can access engaging images, download videos and audio resources to build context, enrich academic vocabulary by just clicking for the definition of a word, and save their resources to online accounts or *Google for Education*.

Encourage your student to use TexQuest resources to delve deeply into subjects about which he/she is passionate. Not only will students be able to read authoritative, engaging content online, but they can also research topics of personal interest. TexQuest provides easy access to information in multiple formats, not just a website rising to the top of an Internet search. You can rest easy knowing that the TexQuest providers carefully select the resources, and that students are building skills that will prepare them for college as well as multiple career areas.

Have fun with the resources. TexQuest includes full-text E-books and magazines from *National Geographic Kids*, along with learning games and activities in *Britannica School*. Students (and their families) can find plenty to educate and entertain themselves within TexQuest.

Education Service Center, Region 20 serves as the TexQuest Support Center for TexQuest and will remain open for business all summer. For questions or additional information, please contact the TexQuest Support Center at texquest@esc20.info or at 1-844-719-1501 (toll free). Plan to visit our exhibit or attend one of our sessions at the PTA Launch Conference this July or at the Statewide Parental Involvement Conference in Dallas starting December 10.

Parents who want to access or learn more about the TexQuest resources may find what they need at <http://TexQuest.net>. Check the Training tab for online webinars and tutorials, or go to the Connect tab, Resources for Program Support, TexQuest Parent Connections.

Students and faculty eventually go home for the evening, and schools may close for the summer, but quality online content doesn't need a rest. Texas students and their families can always connect to TexQuest.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO KEEP KIDS SAFE AT SCHOOL

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For most of the year, children spend more time at school than anywhere else other than their own home. At school, children need a secure, positive and comfortable environment to help them learn.

Overall, schools are one of the safest places children can be. However, some schools have problems, such as bullying and theft, which make them less secure. These problems make students and educators feel less safe, and it makes it harder for students to learn and for teachers to do their jobs.

But there are specific ways that parents can make going to school a safer and more valuable learning experience for their children.

TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people.

Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing guards when they can.

Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.

Teach children not to talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school they should tell an adult.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Kids need a safe and comfortable environment to learn to the best of their capabilities. This means they have to feel safe in their school and be able to positively interact with their teachers and classmates. By doing the following, parents and other adults can help make sure children have a positive school experience.

Talk to your children about their day. Sometimes children won't tell you right away if they are having problems at school. Ask your children if they see anyone bullied, if they are bullied, or if anything else makes them feel uncomfortable. Look for warning signs, such as sudden drop in grades, loss of friends, or torn clothing.

Ask about the safety and emergency plans for your children's school. How are local police involved? How are students and parents involved? What emergencies have been considered and planned for?

ON THE BUS

Have your children arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to pick them up.

Make sure children know to stand on the sidewalk or on the grass while waiting for the bus.

Teach children to make sure they can see the bus driver and the bus driver can see them before crossing in front of the bus. Tell them to never walk behind the bus.

Be aware that often bullying takes place on the school bus. Ask children about their bus, who they sit with, who they talk to, and what the other kids do. Let them know that if they see someone being bullied, or are bullied themselves, they can talk to you, the bus driver, or another trusted adult.

http://www.ncpc.org/topics/school-safety/copy_of_School-safety

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THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT CONNECTION

is posted on our web site four times a year for parents and educators of Texas.

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**Title I Statewide School Support and
Family & Community Engagement Initiative**



<http://www.esc16.net/dept/isserv/title1swi/index.html>

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