

# PARENTING AFTER A DIVORCE

## WORKING WITH YOUR EX-SPOUSE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Parents have a big impact on a child's academic experience. This step-by-step guide can help you and your ex-spouse work together to give your child the best support for success in school.

### 1) **Make a plan**

As part of an overall parenting plan, you and your ex-spouse should discuss key issues related to your child's education.

- a. Where your child will go to school
- b. How your child will get to and from school when he or she stays with each parent
- c. How you will communicate with teachers and share school-related information with each other (If you both would like email reminders from the teacher just ask the teacher to include both emails on their group setting)
- d. How you will make sure homework gets completed and turned in on time
- e. How you will handle any school-related issues that may arise, such as poor grades or behavior problems

### 2) **Keep the school in the loop**

Be sure to let your child's teacher or the school counselor know about the breakup, separation, or divorce. This can help them better understand and stay alert for issues that may affect your child's school performance and behavior. Also make the school aware of any transportation changes or any address changes.

### 3) **Get involved**

Parent involvement plays a key role in children's school success. When you take an interest in your child's education and participate in school activities, your child will be more likely to:

- a. Attend regularly
- b. Earn better grades
- c. Behave better
- d. Graduate and go on to higher education

There are many things you could do one-on-one with your child, such as:

- a. Read together
- b. Help with homework
- c. Talk about school often—such as what their favorite part of the day was or what he or she learned in a particular class.

Parents can stay involved by:

- a. Attending parent-teacher conferences
- b. Going to school events or extra-curricular activities your child is involved in
- c. Communicating with the teacher

This can be a great way to show your child that no matter what happens between the two of you as spouses, you will both always be there for him or her.

4) **Expect the best from your child**

In addition to getting involved with school activities, you can help your child reach their academic potential by:

- a. Creating a regular homework routine—and helping your child stick to it
- b. Encouraging your child to put his or her full effort into each project, paper or test
- c. Helping your child find ways to improve if their grades don't match up with their ability
- d. Discussing your child's goals for the future, such as what he or she wants to do for a career, and how education can help make those goals a reality.

School plays an important role in your child's life, as do you and your ex-spouse. Bring those worlds together by showing your child that you both support his or her efforts and will be there, no matter what.

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