

Receiving Poor Grades

☺ “Love and Logic” to the Rescue ☺

Dear Eastside Families,

There are few things that create more guilt, fear and feelings of failure—for us parents—than seeing our children performing poorly in school. Fortunately, we can guide them toward success by employing a solid plan:

1. Remember that good relationships are the foundation.

The research is clear: Kids who enjoy loving relationships with their parent(s) enjoy more success academically AND are more likely to avoid high-risk behaviors like drugs, sex, gangs, etc.

2. Avoid unwinnable power struggles like the plague.

Learning is something that we cannot make another person do. The harder we try, the more they rebel and the more our relationship with them suffers.

3. Model love of learning through "eavesdrop value-setting."

Allow your children to overhear you talking with excitement about YOUR own learning. What they overhear is often far more powerful than what they are told.

4. Set aside a consistent time and place for daily learning.

This is a consistent time for them to learn—by either doing their homework, completing daily reading, or thinking deeply about schoolwork. This time is NOT for playing video games, watching TV, or playing with friends or sibs.

5. Use empathy to help children learn from their mistakes.

When our children "learn" by thinking—rather than doing, they will obviously get some poor grades. Responding with sincere empathy—rather than anger—makes all of the difference: *"I can't imagine how bad it must feel to get that grade. I love you. Let me know how I can help."*

6. Teach children to give.

Most importantly, our kids need to learn that it is better to give than to receive. Today, too few make contributions to their families in the form of chores... or contributions to their communities in the form of service. Entitlement, low self-esteem and lack of motivation are the predictable result.

Thanks for Reading ☺

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☺ For more practical parenting ideas, check out www.loveandlogic.com

