

GRANDPARENTS GROUP: Working with School & Community

For more information please contact us at: grandparents@pbfalv.org

Goals and Rationale:

Goals:

- To develop realistic expectations of what school is like today
- To improve interaction with school personnel
- Enhance grandchildren's achievement in school
- Discuss any school-related concerns

Rationale:

- Today's educational system is vastly different from the system even a generation ago. When you are suddenly thrust into the world of school, you may be unsure of where to go to get questions answered.
- Throughout this newsletter we will provide you with information related to navigating school systems and assisting grandchildren to experience success.

Reflection:

Take a moment, and think to yourself, are there any person experiences that you have had, positive OR negative, related to school that you can remember....

If you were able to come up with something, think about how you navigated through those challenges or success...

Are any of those experiences still impacting you today? If so, how?

School Enrollment:

Children must formally enroll in school before they can attend classes. The enrollment process can be confusing and lengthy, especially if several different schools are involved. While specific enrollment policies may vary from district to district, and state to state, common rules require presentation of the child's birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. Immunizations must be up to date. Health records can be provided by the child's PCP or the County Public Health Department. Children who have not received immunizations on schedule can typically obtain them free of charge at a local immunization clinic.

Helping Children Achieve in School:

School schedules can vary greatly from district to district. Don't be afraid to ask questions about the timing of the school day, what happens in school on particular day, weather-related cancellation policies, and vacation days!

Today's schools typically provide an extensive variety of resources to assist all types of learners in achieving school success. Many districts provide tutoring assistance from professionals or community volunteers. There are also a wide variety of mentoring programs to encourage supportive one-on-one relationships with a child.

Things are very different now that we are in the midst of a pandemic. What challenges have you come across now that learning is mostly, if not all, virtual? How, if at all, have you been coping with those challenges?

My Grandchild's School:

This is a reference sheet that allows you to put contact information for each person that is important to your grandchild's education. We recommend printing it out or copying it down in an easy to access place where you can get it during a time of need. This list is important because it will help you to figure out who the appropriate contact person is at your grandchild's school.

Phone Numbers & Need to Know Information

Grandchild's name: _____
 School name: _____
 School phone: _____
 Attendance office phone: _____
 Principal's name: _____
 Secretary's name: _____
 Teacher's name: _____

Nurses office: _____
 Guidance counselor: _____
 School Superintendent: _____
 Other numbers: _____

 Friends and family numbers: _____

NOTES FROM THE COUNSELORS:

Today's schools form the core of a young person's social lives. The great variety of after school and extracurricular activities available to even the youngest students necessitates caregivers' awareness. Many children spend a great deal of time in organized activities. Older children may feel a strong need to spend time just 'hanging out' with friends.

It's important to recognize the need for these activities while balancing their safety and knowing their whereabouts.

How has the pandemic impacted participation in these activities?

Have you come up with any creative solutions to remedy a lack of organized activities?

Homework & Study Habits:

Sometimes children may find themselves "behind" their classmates in terms of learning, achievement, and study habits.

They may be unfamiliar with goals that hold school success in high regard, or they may not have experience with household rules that are made to encourage good study habits.

Even very young children can learn the importance of taking pride in one's schoolwork and will benefit from established home routines.

What are some routines you currently have in the household?

What are some routines you would like to establish?

Upcoming sessions:

12/7 & 12/14:
 Money Management and Community Resources

12/21 & 12/28:
 Looking to the Future

Positive Study Habits:

Establish Routines: It's pivotal to maintain consistent routines that make sense for each child. Some children benefit from getting their homework done right away, others need a "break" before completing work. There are no right or wrong answers.

Remove Distractions: It's important to have a place that is relatively free from distraction (away from TV's or phones) and adequate lighting. Younger children may need an adult nearby to help while older children may benefit from distance.

Use Special Services (if needed): Children may have difficulty in certain subjects, and can benefit from special tutoring and other school-related services. Communicate with the teacher...they are often happy to provide support!

