

Family Patterns for School Success

There are certain family patterns and characteristics that generally encourage success at school for any child. Use the checklist below to see how many characteristics describe your family. Very few (if any) families would be able to check every item. However, the ones you do check indicate your areas of strength as a family unit. The areas you did not check may be indicators of things you would like to work toward as a family.

- ___ 1. Open communication between parents and children.
- ___ 2. Clear-cut definitions of right and wrong behavior that are understood and met by all members of the family, not just the children.
- ___ 3. Rules that are fair and are enforced.
- ___ 4. Problems are considered and solved as a family unit.
- ___ 5. Orderly and positive home life.
- ___ 6. 1-2 hours a day set aside as study time or learning time for everyone.
- ___ 7. Physical activity is part of the daily routine.
- ___ 8. See hard work and perseverance as the key to success.
- ___ 9. Share dreams for the future.
- ___ 10. High expectations are communicated to everyone.
- ___ 11. All members of the family have a good self concept.
- ___ 12. Have regular routines, especially for mealtimes and bedtimes.
- ___ 13. Eating meals together and sharing chores is the norm.
- ___ 14. There is an emphasis on reading and studying.
- ___ 15. Discussion of real issues is a part of family life and the preferred method of problem solving.
- ___ 16. There is close contact between home and school.

