

Parental Support Assessment



Discover your Child's Learning Needs
to Unlock their Full Potential

Parental Support Assessment

Are you helping your child learn in ways that work?

Find out in five minutes or less

You know that your child needs your help if he or she is to succeed in school and have the future they dream of, and you have taken the time to find ways to support your child's education.

But what is the best way to help your child? How can you be sure that the support you are offering matches your child's learning needs?

Unless the support you give your child provides the kind of help he or she needs you could be wasting your time and energy - not to mention your money!

Wouldn't it be great if there was a quick way to evaluate the effectiveness of the support you are offering your child? So that you know that you are doing your best to help them succeed in school?

Well, there is. You have it in your hands!

Answer yes or no to each of the following questions:

_____ Do you feel completely happy with the kind of support you provide your child?

_____ Are you sure the help you are providing is exactly what your child needs?

_____ Does your child appreciate your support?

_____ Does s/he agree that this is the help s/he needs right now?

_____ Are you happy with the amount of time you spend providing help? That includes help with homework, driving to and from tutoring, buying resources?

_____ Are you happy with the amount of money you are spending on providing support for your child?

- _____ Do you think you are getting value for money?
- _____ Does the amount of effort you spend helping your child seem worth it?
- _____ Do you get the results you want?
- _____ Do you help your child because you want to, not because feel pressured into doing so?
- _____ Do you avoid becoming frustrated when you try to help your child?
- _____ Does your child avoid getting frustrated by the type of help you offer?
- _____ Do you wish that your child needed less help from you?
- _____ Do you avoid the pressure to do some of your child's homework?
- _____ Do you know exactly how to help your child learn more, easier, and faster?
- _____ Do you think that your child appreciates your help?
- _____ Do you notice how much your child is learning when you provide support?
- _____ Do you expect to provide support your child for the long-term?
- _____ Do you feel confident that you are helping your child become a better learner?
- _____ Do you wish you could spend less time supporting your child's education?
- _____ Do you feel that you are missing out on family life because of the time you spend helping your child?
- _____ Have you asked your child's teacher what help your child needs?
- _____ Do you know what you should be doing to help your child become a better learner?
- _____ Do you know how your child likes to learn so that you can provide support in a way that is effective?
- _____ Do you know exactly what your child needs to learn?

Score one point for every time you answered 'yes'.

Final score _____

What your score means...

20 or more: Well done! It looks like you are giving your child just what they need to succeed. I congratulate you because I know how hard you are working at giving your child a great future. You can look forward to your child's success.

15 to 20: You are obviously doing some things right! I expect that you enjoy helping your child learn and are reasonably happy with the way things are working out. You might want to consider concentrating on helping your child in the ways you know work well and dropping those that may be more trouble than they are worth. Either way it seems that you are giving your child the learning opportunities that will lead to success.

10 to 15: Obviously this is not the highest score but I want you to know that often a low score means that you are trying too hard. It does not mean that you are a bad parent or that you do not care about your child's education. You, like many parents I have worked with, are probably spending far too much time and effort trying to help your child do their schoolwork.

Here are a few things you can do to fix this:

- * First, step back and take a look at how you are supporting your child's education. Make a list of everything you are doing, you may be surprised at the effort you are spending trying to help your child learn.
- * Then, look at the list and cross off those situations that do not work either because you are not sure what you are doing or what you are doing does not seem to help your child.
- * Then concentrate on what is left on the list. These ways of helping your child are obviously working at some level and these are the ones that you need to continue doing.
- * Spend your time and effort on doing things that work and ignore the rest. That way you will be more relaxed and your child will be less confused.

If you want more ideas about ways to help your child make sure that you take note of the weekly tips that I send out.

Below 10: This means that the support you are giving your child is probably not working well. It does not mean that you are an unsupportive parent. You are probably working really hard to help your child do well in school. The problem is no one has told you what to do, so you don't know where to start.

I see this happening with parents all the time. They are doing all they can to support their child's education but they do not have the information they need to be able to do it well. You may be trying to act like your child's teacher, trying to help them learn the same way your teachers helped you. Times have changed, and the education system has changed with them. Things are not the same as when you went to school, children are being taught in different ways, ways you may know nothing about.

It is not your fault, how can you be expected to know what support your child needs when no one is giving you the information that allows you to make good choices.

If this is your situation here are a few things you can do to fix the problem:

- * Stop doing the things that don't work! This is the very first and most important step you can take. Get out of the habit of nagging your child to do their homework, stop confusing your child by showing him or her a different way of doing things, give yourself a break, you deserve it.
- * Tell your child that you want to help him or her but you don't know how and that you are going to find out what you should be doing. This takes the pressure off your child and gives him or her the chance to support you in finding ways to help.
- * Talk to your child's teacher. Tell the teacher about the problems you are having and ask for advice. Most teachers will be very willing to give you suggestions on ways to help your child. If you don't understand what the teacher is asking you to do, or you are not sure how to do it, make sure you get a detailed explanation and do not leave before you are happy with what you have been told. Always call ahead to make an appointment.
- * Find out how your child learns best. Many parents try to help their child in ways that match their own learning style and this can be different from that of their child. This creates learning difficulties for your child. You need to try to help him or her in the way they learn best, not the way you learn best. I have known many parent get frustrated and angry because they think their child is just not trying hard enough when the real problem is the way they are trying to help their child does not match the way the child learns.

Whether you scored 100% or zero I applaud you for trying to give your child the learning opportunities they need. You make the difference, how you support your child's education determines your child's future.

Want more information and ideas? Sign up for my free newsletter and get weekly tips on how to support your child's learning. This FREE information and advice could save you time, money, and effort. Best of all, it will help you help your child become a happy, eager student ready to walk into a wonderful future.

About Patricia Porter

Dr. Patricia Porter is Learning Skill Assessment Specialist and highly sought after international speaker, educator and ambassador for maximizing children's learning potential.

After a 35 year teaching career, Dr. Porter founded Leading to Learning, a company based on her proprietary PathFinder© Program, delivering in-person and online assessment and education for children aged 4-14.

Through her programs Patricia has helped hundreds of families better understand their children's learning needs. By providing a clear strategy tailored to the individual child, parents have peace of mind that their child now has a path to reach their true learning potential.