

Reinforcing Learning

You still play a key role in your child's learning

If you, like a great many parents, became used to overseeing the homework your elementary school student brought home, you may feel some dread as your child begins middle school. You may worry that you don't remember higher-level math or science, making your review of homework not very helpful. Or you may simply think your child no longer needs you.

Neither is the case! Of course your child is growing and advancing. So your role may be different. But it's no less important. Here are some tips for helping your child:

- Know what your child is studying. That doesn't mean you have to be able to teach it or even explain it. But being aware of the subject matter helps you understand what is being expected of your child.
- Ask questions that help your child link new information with something she already knows. "Hmm. Order of operations. I see an exponent here and I remember you doing problems with exponents last year. What if reviewing exponents could help you learn order of operations?"
- Suggest ways your child can find information. Help your child find a book, article or website that might help her. Is there a friend or family member that might be an expert on the subject?

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