

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

September 2020

Attica Public Schools

SHORT NOTES



My handwashing poster

Ask your child to design a poster that reminds family members to frequently wash their hands. She could include a clever slogan (“Wanted: Clean hands!”) and write and illustrate instructions for washing properly. *Examples:* “Scrub for at least 20 seconds.” “Wash fronts and backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails.”

Natural rewards

Show your youngster that good behavior has its own rewards. For instance, point out that there’s time to play a board game because he put away his toys the first time you asked. He’ll be more apt to repeat the behavior next time.

Sort the foods

Sorting items into categories boosts your child’s thinking skills. After you make a grocery list, have her rewrite it in a way that will help you shop more efficiently. She could organize items by the aisle where they’re located (produce, frozen foods). Then, she could think of other ways to sort for fun, maybe by color or food group.

Worth quoting

“Use your smile to change the world; don’t let the world change your smile.” *Chinese proverb*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: You can see me in water, but I never get wet. What am I?



A: A reflection.

Confident about school

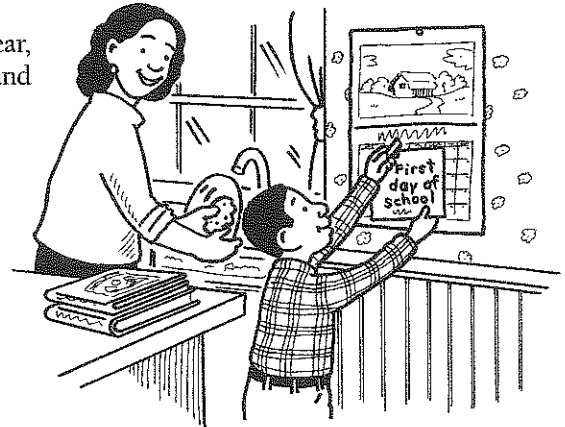
School may look different this year, but one thing is the same: Parents and teachers want to keep children safe and help them learn. Here are answers to questions you may have as the new school year gets underway.

Q: My child thinks school will be too hard this year since he hasn’t been in class for so long. What can I do?

A: Many students had a longer-than-normal summer break, and teachers are ready to help them catch up. So let your youngster know he’s not alone. If you discover he is struggling (say, stumbling over sight words or math facts he knew last year), contact his teacher so you can work as a team to get him on track.

Q: With all the changes COVID-19 has brought, my son seems anxious. Any ideas for making him feel better?

A: Youngsters feel less anxious when they know what to expect. If he’s adjusting to a new school schedule, post it on the refrigerator. At home, try to keep



things as much the same as possible. Eat meals together regularly, and plan weekend activities he can look forward to like hiking or playing backyard games.

Q: When my child works online, how much should I be involved?

A: Your youngster’s work is his responsibility, but you can offer support. To help him stay on task, make sure he has a quiet place to learn and the materials he needs. You might sit nearby and do your own work, or simply be available in case he has a question or a technical problem (like a dropped internet connection). Consider keeping a notepad handy so he can write his questions if you’re busy.♥

Get to know teachers

Now’s the time to open the lines of communication with your youngster’s teachers and set the stage for a successful year. Consider this advice:

- Attend events like back-to-school night and PTA or PTO meetings, whether they’re held virtually or in person. Introduce yourself to your child’s teacher, and try to meet specialists, too. The librarian, school counselor, and art, music, and PE teachers all play important roles in your youngster’s education.
- Send a note or an email to find out how teachers prefer to be contacted. Also, include a personal detail or two about your child, perhaps how she’s coping with the pandemic or a hobby she enjoys. You might also ask the teacher how he’s been doing during this time—he’ll appreciate your recognizing that it has been hard on everyone.♥

