



Build your child's learning confidence

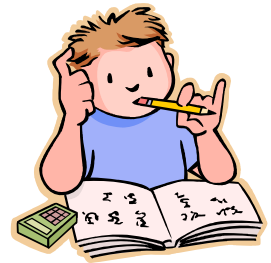
When children are confident in their ability to learn, they are more likely to take risks in learning and exploring new ideas. Parents can easily help build learning confidence. Here are some tips from our professional teachers.

Model a positive attitude

Learning happens every day, even for adults. Share a story about something you learned today, like a new fact from a newspaper or a skill at work. If the process was difficult, don't be afraid to say so, but do focus on your ultimate success – or your ongoing efforts.

Have fun

Learning happens even when we don't realize it – like when we are playing a board game, baking brownies or discussing what we liked or disliked about a movie. Notice the learning and point it out to your child. “You had so much fun using numbers when we played Uno.” “I enjoyed talking about the themes in that movie with you.”



Stay nearby

During homework time, just being there shows your child that learning is important to your family, and that their learning is important to you. It's a powerful message that you can convey by simply asking “How's it going?”

Praise all efforts

As parents we naturally want our children to do their best and we will go to great lengths to help them present perfect work. Recognize that learning is a process. It's natural and expected that they will make mistakes, present sloppy printing and just plain get tired of working. Try to avoid pointing out every error, and instead focus on how much they have achieved.

Recognize when your child needs extra help

If your child seems especially anxious about learning, it might be helpful to look more closely at their learning process. Talk to their teacher and consider whether they need a learning support program. Getting help will increase their confidence.

These suggestions are provided by Janie Harrison, M.Ed. and Dianne Roe, B.Ed., BSc., teachers who specialize in remedial learning at the non-profit READ Society. More learning tips at www.readsociety.bc.ca or call 250-388-7225.