

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

September 2013

Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School

Guidance Corner

SHORT NOTES



Memory box

Help your child create a keepsake for this school year—it will remind him of all the good things he experiences! Have him decorate a cardboard box with his name, the year (“2013–14”), and the name of his school and teacher. Throughout the year, he can fill the box with graded assignments, photos, and artwork.

Helping the community

Here’s a simple way to teach your youngster to think of others. If you donate items to charity (say, summer clothes that your child has outgrown), take her along. You can explain what you’re doing and why. Then, ask her to look for more ways to help people.

Turn off the TV

Does your family have a habit of leaving the TV on in the evenings? Consider keeping it off most of the time and only turning it on for specific shows. This lets your youngster focus on homework and family time—plus it limits his exposure to news that could be upsetting.

Worth quoting

“There is a brilliant child locked inside every student.” *Marva Collins*

JUST FOR FUN

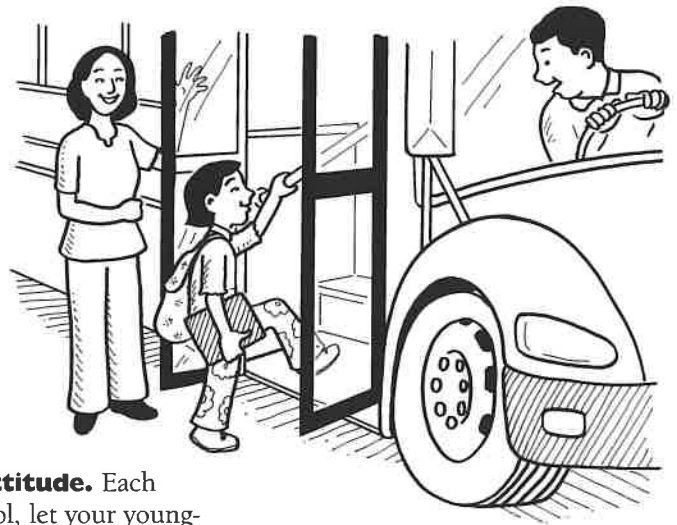
Q: If people count sheep to fall asleep, what do sheep count?

A: Nothing. Sheep can’t count!



Off to a great start

As the school year begins, your child is probably getting used to new expectations and routines. You can help her succeed by providing the support she needs as she adjusts. Encourage her to start the year off right with these tips.



Have a positive attitude. Each morning before school, let your youngster tell you what she’s looking forward to that day. Perhaps there’s a book she’s eager to read or a new game she wants to play at recess. Having something to get excited about can help her head to school feeling great.

Be a hard worker. Your child should turn in assignments that she’s proud to see her name on. That means answering questions completely, double-checking her work, and using her best handwriting.

When she brings home an assignment that she’s especially pleased with, let her post it on the refrigerator.

Get into a routine. Having a daily schedule can help your child stay on track and do her best. Suggest that a younger child draw pictures of her day (eating breakfast, reading a book, getting ready for bed). An older one could write daily tasks—including homework time and extracurricular activities—into her student planner.♥

You can talk to me

Keep the lines of communication open as your child gets older. Consider these suggestions:

- Try to pay attention when your youngster tells you about little things, like a friend’s new pet. If you listen to what’s important to him, he’ll be more apt to come to you with bigger issues (say, if a classmate is teasing him).

- Find the best time to chat. Your child might be most talkative at bedtime or during dinner. Or if you carpool, listen as he chats with friends, and ask occasional questions. (“Who is on your soccer team this year?”)♥

