

Five Tips for the Beginning of the Year

The beginning of a school year is filled with both challenges and excitement. Bigs can help their Littles get the year started right by participating in the excitement and giving support for the challenges. A Big does not have to be a good influence on schoolwork. By using a few common tips, a considerable impact can be made.

1. Become familiar with upcoming dates

Most school districts run a yearly calendar on their websites. Print one out to keep you abreast of major holidays, testing periods, and report card times – when you can encourage your Little to “finish strong” as well as check in on how grades are shaping up.

2. Simply ask about school

Consider slipping questions about school into your everyday conversations. The question “how is school” usually does not draw out as much information as “What is your favorite class during the day?” or “Do you have a friend you really like in your morning classes?” or “Do you have any special projects due in school right now?”

3. Offer to help with a big project

Many Littles are unaccustomed to producing major work at home and could use support and ideas on breaking down a task into do-able parts. Science projects, Social Studies research or English end of book projects are commonly seen assignments were a Big could be an excellent source for practical advice.

4. Help your Little get organized

Occasionally taking a look at your Littles’ backpack will help understand the organizational habits of your student. Bigs might find it necessary to help their Little find a suitable planner, arrange their notebook and make use of folders.

5. Major tests are a major deal

Most younger students have spelling words and math facts and most older students have vocabulary tests and end of year exams. Each is an opportunity for a Big to grab a stack of index cards help their Little make flashcards in preparation for the tests.