

# Parents Are Their Children's First Teachers

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Parents are their children's first and primary teacher. As the primary teacher of their children, they are responsible for nurturing their children's healthy development.

## Parents As First Teachers

The following strategies can assist parents in providing their children with loving guidance and support:

Communicate through your actions, words, readings, and by writing. Preschool children love to sing, talk, and act. All children love to read with their parents and talk about the story, predict, ask clarification questions, and create new adventures with the book's characters. Children can enjoy telling stories that are captured through writing and pictures.

Listen with respect and ask questions for

understanding. When listening to children, parents can ask clarification questions for added information. Thoughtful questions help children clarify solutions to their problems. Give your complete attention each day and engage in playful learning. Children need and relish their parents' time and attention. Parents can create a playful environment with their children and talk with them during your special times together. When engaging them in thoughtful conversations, parents can ask them questions that help them think and problem-solve solutions for everyday situations. Advocate for your children's needs. When children are struggling, parents can ask for help and acquire the necessary resources to help their children succeed. Parents do not need to have all the answers. They should not be embarrassed or ashamed to ask for help when their children are struggling with life or school. Set appropriate and consistent boundaries when disciplining your children. Children feel loved and supported when parents work with them in setting limits for misbehavior. Once boundaries are established and defined, it is important to consistently reinforce them with respectful guidance.

## Next Steps

Finally, you can reflect and comment on examples of how you successfully help your children as their primary teacher. Best practices can be shared in future blogs.

Treasure the journey!

Mary Ann

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