

# How to Deal with Poor Grades

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Dr. Raymond Huntington states, "Parents know their children. If you believe your child could be doing better than his or her grades show, you owe it to your child to remedy the situation." Huntington continues, "More than your child's current grades are at stake. If grades are mediocre or poor, this means your child is not gaining valuable skills. Skills learned by a child in school are like building blocks. If not learned adequately, future skills will suffer. When a child tries to build advanced skills on an uneven foundation of knowledge there is likely to be trouble ahead."

Dr. Huntington offers the following suggestions for a child bringing home a poor report card:

**1. Examine the Situation Realistically**

It is important to remember that a drop in grades indicates that valuable skills are being missed. An effort should be made to learn and reinforce those missing skills. Identify and remedy the basic problem so it does not continue to hurt your child's education.

**2. What is the Real Problem?**

Does your child hand in his/her homework? Is it correct and on time? Is your child bored with the schoolwork and not paying attention? Does your child have behavioral problems? These are not excuses; they are symptoms of different problems. You must identify the problem before it can be remedied.

**3. Talk with Your Child**

What reason has your child given for receiving poor grades? Does he or she take the situation seriously? What does he/she intend to do to make it better? You must let your child know that this is a serious situation and you will help him/her develop a plan to achieve better grades. Reassure your child that you are supportive and believe in his/her abilities.

**4. Monitor Homework**

Homework is your child's responsibility! It is up to him/her to organize his/her time and work efficiently without supervision. Be a coach...review what he/she just did...let him/her explain while you listen. If something is unclear to you ask him or her to further explain.

**5. Stay Involved**

As children move through middle school and high school they may want their parents to be less involved. Stay connected in a way your child feels comfortable. Going to a school sports event, school play, or a back-to-school night might do the trick. Strong parent/school relationships can make a big difference in your child's future.

**6. Talk to Your Child's Teacher or Counselor**

Your child's teacher or counselor is a professional educator. They are there for you as well as for your child. Ask to be kept informed of things whether or not they are going well. If and when a problem arises, it is easier to handle when a relationship has been established with your child's teacher or counselor.

*Excerpted from the Huntington Learning Center Newsletter*