

When You Need Help

Use report card as springboard for discussions

Maybe the report card is all A's. Maybe it's worse than you had feared. Whatever the report card says, it can be a great chance to talk with your child about school and study habits. Lisa Huffman, a professor at Ball State University, offers these tips for parents:

- * Take the report card seriously. Set aside time to talk about it. Does your child agree with the grades? Why or why not?
- * Don't lose your temper. If you are too angry to talk with your child at first, wait until you are calmer.
- * Make a plan. Tutoring or extra study time can help a struggling student.
- * Look at your child's work regularly. Report cards won't be a surprise if you check homework each day.
- * Contact your child's teacher with concerns. Together, you can work out a way to help your child improve.

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