

These 12 questions can help parents determine whether they are providing an environment that will lead to good school learning for the child.

Score two points for each statement that is “almost always true” of your home; score one point if it’s “sometimes true”; score zero if it’s “rarely or never true”.

	Almost Always True (+2)	Sometimes True (+1)	Rarely or Never True (0)
1. Everyone in my family has a household responsibility, at least one chore that must be done on time.	_____	_____	_____
2. We have regular times for members of the family to eat, sleep, play, work, and study.	_____	_____	_____
3. School work and reading come before play, TV, and other work.	_____	_____	_____
4. I praise my child for good schoolwork, sometimes in front of other people.	_____	_____	_____
5. My child has a quiet place to study, a desk or table at which to work, and books, including a dictionary or other reference material.	_____	_____	_____
6. Members of my family talk about hobbies, games, news, the books we’re reading, and movies and TV programs we’ve seen.	_____	_____	_____
7. The family visits museums, libraries, zoos, historical sites, and other places of interest.	_____	_____	_____
8. I encourage good speech habits, helping my child to use the correct words and phrases and to learn new ones.	_____	_____	_____
9. At dinner, or some other daily occasion, our family talks about the day’s events, with a chance for everyone to speak and be listened to.	_____	_____	_____
10. I know my child’s current teacher, what my child is doing in school, and which learning materials are being used.	_____	_____	_____
11. I expect quality work and good grades. I know my child’s strengths and weaknesses and give encouragement and special help when they’re needed.	_____	_____	_____
12. I talk to my child about the future, about planning for high school and college, and about aiming for a high level education.	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____	_____

If you scored ten or more, your home ranks in the top one-fourth in terms of the support and encouragement you give your child for school learning. If you scored six or lower, your home is in the bottom one-fourth. If you scored somewhere in between, you’re average in the support you give your child for school learning.