

MOTIVATING YOUR LEARNER

- ✓ Give frequent, early, positive feedback that supports students' beliefs that they can do well.
- ✓ Help students find personal meaning and value in the material.
- ✓ Create an atmosphere that is open and positive.
- ✓ Make school fun rather than a chore. Go to the beach and write your math problems in the sand. Or have popcorn Friday while you finish your last lesson of the day.
- ✓ Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm.
- ✓ Make a habit of publicly praising the child. When providing the family with an update at the end of the day, let the child share success and celebrate together!
- ✓ Move around your home for lessons every day. Students do not sit in one spot in the classroom. Read your story for the day on the couch. Finish a math sheet outside on your patio. Lay on the floor to finish writing. Give them a flashlight to read their independent reading book with.
- ✓ Try to minimize distractions. Keep the TV off, have little ones occupied, and close the blinds while the lawn man is outside.
- ✓ A reward system can be very motivating to children. Involve the family and the child in determining the types of rewards that will be given. This could be as simple as stickers and a reward chart or a marble jar to earn a pizza party or movie night. Once you reach each goal have a celebration and present their earned reward. Then work together to set the next goal and the next!
- ✓ Make sure you instill pride in your child. You can do this by displaying their work in a visible area. Make a craft wall where you hang their artwork, add a well-done paper to the fridge. By doing this you help the child feel that they're valued, and their work is appreciated. For older students, celebrate passing tests with high grades, give high-fives and kudos!
- ✓ When setting goals or looking to reward a student make sure you assign age appropriate tasks. This will help create more opportunities for success. Avoid tasks that are either too easy or too difficult. Refer to the lesson on creating SMART goals.
- ✓ Help children focus on skill and mastery. Especially if you have a student who struggling. Celebrate they small milestones as they get closer to mastering the larger ones.
- ✓ At the end of the day have your child evaluate how they did that day. What was done well? How can my day be improved?
- ✓ Think about how your child learns. Are they a visual, auditory, kinesthetic (movement) learner or a combination? By teaching your child in the way they learn you will ultimately motivate them to take an interest in school.
- ✓ Write encouraging notes on their papers