Mutual Respect Sets the Tone

Recently, I posted my top 10 tips for home-schooling success, whether it’s just helping with homework or being full-time home school teacher to them. Now I am elaborating on each item on the list. Parenting tip #4 is this:

Earn respect with active listening, healthy

boundaries, and direction.

When tasking yourself with helping your child, either in completion of homework or in full-on home schooling, begin the process with mutual respect for each other and for the process.

Let’s face it. For the majority of school-aged kids, school is not a priority. For many, the attitude runs from *I don’t wanna* to *let’s get it over with*. As parents, we can help build curiosity and novelty into the process, but benefits are short-lived. For a few outliers, school is either fun or a means to an end. For most every child, school is where they meet their friends and hang out. Even this advantage is curtailed during these pandemic times, where on-sight school is closed for now.

So, cranking up home schooling involves gaining mutual respect. Start by exploring with your the strategies you could use to help them. When you get dismissal or resistance, use active listening to help their emotional fever go down. Try to get them to buy in to a brainstorming about ways to tackle home schooling. Work on the plan for school days together and write it down. Use a dry erase daily planner, so that your child knows what to expect and when the breaks are. Set healthy boundaries with behavior management principles of reward and consequence for on-task and task completion. Make your directions clear, specific, and time-sensitive. Remember, any wiggle room you give your child, he will find it and use it to avoid, distract, and manipulate. The more fun, involved, unique, and creative you can make his lesson plans, the more likely he will get into the process and make you proud.

With mutual respect, active listening, healthy boundaries, and clear and specific direction, homework completion and home schooling can be a positive experience for both of you.