

7 Ways to Simplify Your Child's Education

by Vannetta Chapman

Long for the days of the one room schoolhouse? While that might not be possible for most of our children, there are things you can do to simplify your child's education.

1. MAKE education a priority. Arrive home in time for homework and provide a quiet place to complete it.
2. INSIST on direct communication. Speak to teachers directly and immediately when any issues arise. Give teachers your cell phone number and your email address.
3. SHOW up. Be at the school when you need to be and when your child or a teacher asks you to be.
4. MAINTAIN a no excuse policy. Be adamant that your child completes assignments. Stand firm that all grades be passing.
5. CHOOSE extra-curricular activities carefully. Limit after school activities. Decide before the year begins how many nights a week and how late you're willing to stay out.
6. SIMPLIFY rewards. It's good to reward academic excellence, even academic improvement, but keep it simple. Sometimes "I'm proud of you" is all a child needs.
7. ENJOY it. School years often seem to drag, but they will be gone before you know it. Remember to enjoy this time with your child.

Vannetta Chapman is the author of *A Promise for Miriam*. Chapman did her research for the novel in Cashton, Wisconsin, where the Amish still use one room schoolhouses.