

# It Starts at Home

## Tips for parents about reading report cards

- Make sure you understand all sections of the report card. Ask your child's teacher to explain any section that you don't understand.
- When you review report cards, don't jump ahead to read lower grades. This is a common habit. First, focus on good grades and offer positive reinforcement to your child. Highlight your child's successes and encourage your child to feel happy about good effort.
- After focusing on the good grades, you should have a safe, supportive conversation with your child about the areas in which your child's achievement was lower. For example, you could start by saying, "Tell me how things have been going in science lately." Begin by asking for your child's perspective.
- After reading your child's report card, make a plan with your child for how to help them in areas that are hard for them. For example, you could help your child by reviewing what textbooks they should bring home and finding educational websites that are related to the skills they need to develop. You could also contact your child's teacher to tell them that you want to help your child and ask them for suggestions.
- Always remember that your child is more than their report card! When parents focus too much on grades, children may experience increased anxiety. Remind your child that they are special and very important to you.

Parents can find additional information on report cards at:

[www.scholastic.com/resources/article/what-the-report-card-really-means/](http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/what-the-report-card-really-means/)