Middle school can be a tough time for children. But what can parents do to help their middle schooler succeed at such an important time in their academics?

Recent research on this topic continued to emphasize how important it is for parents to be involved in their children’s education. However, this research found some types of involvement are more important than others.

First is home-based involvement, which would include communication between parents and children about what is going on at school, helping children with homework, and providing opportunities for learning with books and computers or taking children to places where they may learn, such as the library (optional cut for time). Another important parent involvement is school-based involvement. This includes parents communicating with teachers, visiting the school, and being involved in school activities.

Results suggest that providing academic socialization is the most important thing that parents can do to help their children succeed in school. This means that talking to children about how important school success is, helping children figure out what they would like to do with their lives and how to get there, and teaching them strategies for success may be even more important than helping with homework or being part of the PTA. However, it is important to remember that any kind of involvement in children’s schooling can be helpful, so parents should continue to be involved in their children’s schooling as much as they are able and however they are able.
Listening, learning and living together, it is the science of life. “Family Album” is a co-production of UF/IFAS Extension, the UF/IFAS Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, and of WUFT-FM. If you would like to learn more, please visit our website at http://www.familyalbumradio.org.

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**Reference**