

# Shows Positive Attitude Towards Learning

## What does “Shows Positive Attitude Towards Learning” mean?

This skill relates to how a child responds when given the chance to learn. A child with a positive attitude shows enthusiasm, curiosity, or engagement when a learning opportunity occurs. Even when they might not be interested in the subject, a child with a positive attitude participates in the learning activity and shows a willingness to try and learn. This skill is important because it shows that children are developing positive feelings about education and their ability to learn new things.

## TIPS for FAMILIES

### How can I explain this skill to my child?

Let your child know that learning isn't just something that happens at school. We all have the chance to learn new things all the time, even adults. Learning new things can sometimes be scary, but it is also exciting and fun. When you learn something, you get the chance to grow because you know more than you did before. Give an example of something you learned recently and how that helped you to grow. For instance, talk about learning to cook something new. Tell your child about your experience learning to cook this new recipe. You can talk about how you felt before and after you made the dish. For example, you can say, “I was nervous to try to make it at first. But after I learned how to do it I felt so proud of myself!” Let your child know that you succeeded in learning to make this new dish because you were willing to give it a try and had a good attitude. Let them know that they can have the same positive attitude every day when they are given the chance to learn something!

### What are some things I can do to help my child learn this skill?

#### TIP1

**Ask questions.** One easy way to encourage a positive attitude toward learning is by asking your child questions about what new things they learned at school that day and how they felt about it. Instead of just asking about grades, test scores, and homework, ask your child to share something that they found interesting in school that day. For example, you can say:

- Tell me one new thing you learned at school today.
- How did you feel when you learned about that?
- What are you excited about learning tomorrow?

If your child says that they haven't learned anything new that day, tell them there is still time to learn something new at home. Ask them about what they want to learn and then spend five or ten minutes reading a book or watching a video about the thing they are interested in. When you're done, ask your child what they learned and how it made them feel.

**TIP2** **Focus on your child's interests.** All children have different interests. A great way to build a positive attitude toward learning is to focus on the things that interest your child most. For example, if your child loves dinosaurs, go to the library and check out a book about dinosaurs. You can read the book along with your child. When you are done, ask your child to list two new things they learned about dinosaurs from the book. Be enthusiastic about what your child learned and express excitement about learning new things about dinosaurs together in the future. By building off the interests your child already has, you can help them to feel positive about their ability to learn new things. It can also help them to learn other skills, like reading, while they are learning about something they already find interesting.

**TIP3** **Share your love of learning.** Enthusiasm is contagious. Express enthusiasm for the new things your child learns and talk about your own love of learning. Tell your child a story about a time you were really excited to learn something new. You can also talk to them about something you loved to learn about in school. Let them know how learning this new thing made you feel and how it helped you in the future. For example, you could say, "I was really curious to learn about animals when I was in school. Science class taught me a lot about different kinds of animals. I worked really hard on a report about cheetahs for science class. I thought it was so cool that they are the fastest animal in the world! I was really proud of that report because I worked hard on it and I learned a lot of new things. Learning all of those cool things about cheetahs made me more interested in other parts of science, so it became my favorite class when I was older!"

You can also take the time to learn something new with your child. For example, if your child is trying to learn to sing a new song, learn with them. Let them know that you are excited about learning to sing the song together. Once you are done, express enthusiasm about what you learned. Showing your child that you value learning and education is one way to help them build a positive attitude.

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### How can I encourage my child when I see them trying to learn this skill?

**Acknowledge your child for their efforts!** For example, tell your child, "Juan, you are showing a lot of excitement about our math lesson. That's great!" or "Lily, I think it's so cool that you want to learn more about science!"

To learn more about the tips and where they came from, please visit our references page: [ckphilly.org/citations](http://ckphilly.org/citations)