

## **How Parents Can Help With Differentiated Curriculum**

1. Understand that all students in the same class will not always have exactly the same assignment. Assignments for gifted students may be more challenging and more difficult. Assignments for special education students or English Language Learners may be shorter or modified in other ways.
2. Encourage learning and help your child understand that learning is the main goal of school, not grades or points or competing against others.
3. Be supportive and interested in what your child is learning, but do not do your child's homework for him or her. If he or she has a major project to do, find out ahead of time how much parental help is acceptable. There is a delicate balance between too much parental assistance and not enough.
4. Know what is being studied in school and share any resources you may have about this topic. Informal conversations are always helpful and usually increase your child's interest in and connections to the topic.
5. Whenever possible, point out the relationships between what is being learned at school and things that are going on in other parts of your child's life. Links to your family's history, culture or experiences are also valuable.
6. Help your child with organizational and study skills. These are not automatic for most students!
7. Understand that the learning process (learning how to learn) is just as important as learning basic skills and knowledge. Parents can often help with skills and knowledge-based tasks, but you should allow your child to discover some of the process skills himself.
8. Help your child discover special areas of interest for in-depth study. Model the learning process by being excited about learning yourself!
9. Know the terminology and strategies used in differentiation. Some words to understand include learning contracts, curriculum compacting, flexible grouping, student choice activities, Individual Lesson Plan, Tic-Tac-Toe, rubrics, and independent study. (Add your own words to this list.)
10. Inquire about how grading is being done in your child's differentiated classroom. It is important that you understand the meaning behind the grade.