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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
11 AM - 1 PM**



DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN
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How to motivate your child to succeed in school

With another school year just under-way, it is important for parents to keep in mind some tips to motivate your child and enhance their overall school experience and performance.

Focus on support and encouragement:

- Show enthusiasm: have fun celebrating achievements!
- Be positive: notice effort and see any carelessness as a slip of the moment, not a sign of future failure.
- Accept and understand: listen to your child's difficulties and accept these as real for them. Develop a plan to help overcome any difficulties.
- Boost their self-belief: when they have a task to do, say something encouraging and leave them to get on with it. This helps foster independent work habits.

Increase your child's sense of control:

- Allow children to set their own goals. Write down their goals and work in rewards to keep their focus.
- Give them time to spot their own mistakes: Don't jump in too quickly.
- Help by suggesting a range of possible solutions, rather than telling them what's right or what to do. Understand that each child has a distinct learning style, and innate ability. Try to focus on their natural strengths.
- Offer some choices about when they do things and where they prefer to work. Then, set a schedule together as to when homework gets done, when they get play-time and when they have to be in bed.

• If they run out of time to complete something, avoid finishing it for them. You will only instill a false sense of responsibility, and signals that it's "ok" not to meet deadlines.

Remember, the key motivator for any child young or old, is that they believe in themselves! The best gift you can give your child is the encouragement that there is no limit to what they can achieve!

—By *Connie Ward, The Royal Academy of Arts & Education*
BA, MS.Ed.

Halton moms website now offers forum for Halton Hills mothers

Halton Moms is a website that hosts discussion forums for all moms of Halton through separate boards for each town.

The website, which began for Milton moms, was started by Sandy Gillespie in order to meet other moms when she was pregnant with her daughter.

The forum soon grew to include more than 600 moms who are making friendships and getting advice.

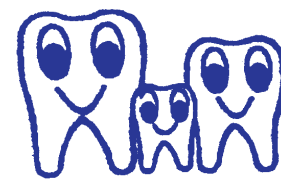
Gillespie decided to expand and give the other moms of Halton, including Acton and Georgetown, the opportunity to reach out like the moms of Milton have been able to.

The website is www.haltonmoms.com



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