

10 Things Any Parent Can Do To Help Their Child Succeed In The Arts.

1. **Tools For Success** - Make sure that your child has the right equipment, supplies and materials to get started. While there is an initial investment, the cost involved is often less than one might think. It is not necessary to buy the best or most expensive equipment available for a beginning student. Be aware that some supplies found at children's stores or box stores, are nothing more than toys and will not work for educational purposes. While Logan Studios is not a retail store, you can call one of our lesson coordinators to assist you in finding what you need.
2. **Look For A Professional Teaching Environment** – Learning is not only dependent on having a qualified teacher, but also on having an environment that is focused on education. A professional teaching environment will not have the distractions that can be found in a residence, music store, or other informal setting. Students who attend lessons in this type of environment have a definite advantage over other students. In addition students are able to see and communicate with other students with similar interests. At Logan Studios, we feel that peer interaction is essential to encouraging growth in a student's education.
3. **Encourage Practice** – No student can reach his or her full potential without putting in some extra time outside of the lesson. How much time depends on the student. Young students tend not to practice as much as an older student will, and they usually do not need as much either. As a parent you should be aware of how much they are practicing as well as how much they should be practicing. Sometime a little push is needed, as kids do not always understand the importance of repetitive practice. However, being pushed too hard may cause a student to lose interest.
4. **Showcase Their Talent** – Music, Visual Art, and Dance are meant to be shared with the world. Performing or showcasing a student's work is an important component in the student's education. Like everything else it needs to be practiced. Make sure that your child has many opportunities to participate in recitals or showcases, and encourage and support their participation.
5. **Encourage Long Term Commitment** – Learning the arts takes time and commitment. Success does not happen overnight, and this can be frustrating at times. While we don't believe in students should be forced into an activity that they are not interested in, often times children will want to give up simply because something has become difficult. It is important that parents understand that a student's interest and excitement will go through peaks and valleys. Encourage them through the low points and they will thank you later.

6. **Consistency** – Make sure that your child is receiving their education on a regular basis. This is especially important when a student is new to the subject. Since families have increasingly busy schedules, make sure that you find a studio that has multiple scheduling options available. Sports seasons can be difficult, but the arts often only require thirty minutes to an hour of class time a week. Also, be sure to find a school where lessons are available throughout the summer. Losing two to three months of lessons can set back a student's progress and will take time to get back to where they left off in June.

7. **Learn Along With Them** – You don't need to keep up with them, but try to learn some of the basics. This will allow you to understand what they are going through, and help you encourage them to practice. Sit in on a few private lessons so that you know what is happening. While this may not be possible with group classes, a reputable school will have viewing windows that allow the parents to watch the class.

8. **Communication** – Communication is vital. Make sure that you speak regularly with the teacher as well as your child. Often times what you want out of the lessons may not be what your child wants out of lessons. Most teachers want feedback, so that they can better teach your child. Students often feel shy about telling a teacher that they are struggling, or do not like what they are doing. This kind of roadblock can be avoided simply by talking with the teacher. At Logan Studios, we have staff available during all lesson times to assist you in keeping the lines of communication open.

9. **Have Realistic Expectations** – We all want instant results, but unfortunately that is rarely the case when studying the arts. As a parent you need to know that every student is going to progress at a different rate, and that the student's interest will go up and down. Have patience, anyone one can learn if they want to. Also, realize that not every student wants to be a professional artist. Some students want to simply play along with the radio, or dance with their friends, while others may aspire to play music for millions, or become the world's next great painter. No matter what their goals, consistent education and support is the key to success.

10. **Have Fun!** – Your child needs to know that you enjoy what they are doing. (Yes even the teenagers.) Make a point of asking them what they are working on. Have them give you a private family performance, or have a quick five-minute conversation about their interests. Enthusiasm is contagious, and they will look to you for encouragement.

**Call Logan Studios
To Register Today!
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