

Highschooland



5 Ways to appeal to their senses

From parents who know

1 *"We have a generation of visual thinkers as our children were raised with computers and video games. Color and design are vital to them. To play to this, use colors and charts. A white board with colored dry erase markers is attractive to both young and older students as they have power over that white board; it is theirs alone. Power over something is a big thing. Kids are so used to being criticized and nagged that they love having power over a little piece of property to call their own. That is why power struggles happen among so many different topics: bedtime, food, friends, parties, cars, homework,*

and messy bedrooms. As much as it irritates us, they are breaking free of our authority."

2 *"Your child has strengths that can be used doing homework. Moving around is ok if your child needs rhythm and motion. She may pace back and forth to repeat an idea or formula, make a motion with her arms to drive in an idea on her muscles. Those of you parents who played a sport in school or who coached sports know about muscle memory. Muscle memory can be used to study and memorize. On a smaller scale,*

the student can touch different fingers to remind her of a concept, word or fact."

3 *"All English classes, even in high school, have weekly vocabulary tests. Find out what the words are and when the tests are, and help your child study. Make it fun! You can make funny sentences using the word, and your child can, also. You can do this throughout the week in a casual way. Don't make it dreary but funny. When I lightened up, my kids relaxed into learning and the emotion faded out."*

4 *"On Sunday evenings, my kids took 15 minutes to get ready for the week ahead and organize their backpacks. No TV, computer, or games at this time. Music was ok. Yes, they complained about it, but it wasn't negotiable. They had to do it, and I got ready for the week ahead with my calendar or paperwork. 15 minutes is plenty of time, as long as it is not interrupted, to clean out a messy backpack, throw away unneeded papers and organize the binders with different subjects. A clean start to the week was a big help for the kids, even though they complained about it. They put their backpacks or whatever they needed for school the next day by the door so they would have to fall over it to get out the door. Early mornings are crazy enough without searching for a paper that is due."*

5 *"I tried to model the behavior I wanted from my kids. I wanted them to read, so I read. I wanted them to be neat, so I was neat. Oh, well, that didn't work, but I chose my battles. A disaster area of a bedroom was not equal to work required in school. Homework was always a natural and expected thing to do – not a negative and extraordinary thing. We made it normal."*

About the Author:

A high school counselor since 1978, Karyn Rashoff has met with thousands of students and their parents in their quests to achieve. Leading parent groups on college admissions and testing timelines, academic planning and orientation for high school, common questions and concerns arise. Among various locations and ethnic groups runs a common thread of yearning for excellence, no matter what personal goals, socioeconomic status or parent education. To contact Karyn Rashoff, email her at karyn.rashoff@gmail.com.

