

The Parent Education Checkup

10 Questions Every Parent Should Be Able to Answer About Their Child's Education

By Dr. Ella Jackson

You know your child's personality.
You know what makes them laugh.
You know their favorite foods, activities, friends, and interests.
But how well do you know your child as a **student**?

Navigating K–12 education requires more than checking grades and attending an occasional parent-teacher conference. Parents need to understand where their child stands academically, how they feel about learning, what support they need, and whether they are developing the confidence to eventually take ownership of their education.



Use these ten questions as your family's Education Checkup.

1. Is my child performing at grade level?

Don't simply ask:

“Did my child pass?”

Ask:

“Has my child mastered the skills expected at this grade level?”

My answer: _____

Something I need to investigate: _____

2. What are my child's strongest academic areas?

Every educational conversation shouldn't begin with weaknesses.

Identify where your child demonstrates confidence, interest, ability, and curiosity.

My child's strengths: _____

3. Where does my child currently need additional support?

A learning gap doesn't mean your child isn't intelligent.

It means there is something that needs attention.

Areas requiring support: _____

4. How does my child feel about themselves as a student?

Ask them.

“Do you think you're a good student?”

Then listen before correcting their answer.

What my child said: _____

5. Can my child comfortably communicate with their teacher?

Children need to gradually develop the confidence to ask questions, request clarification, communicate concerns, and seek assistance.

Yes / Sometimes / Not Yet / I Don't Know

6. Do I have a healthy communication relationship with my child's teacher?

Ask yourself:

Do I only communicate when something goes wrong?

Or have we developed a partnership around my child's success?

One thing I can do to strengthen this relationship:

7. What does learning look like inside our home?

Consider routines, homework, reading, sleep, technology, conversations about school, organization, and expectations.

One strength in our home: _____

One thing we need to improve: _____

8. What interests, gifts, or talents is my child developing?

Education should help children discover possibilities—not simply complete assignments.

My child's interests/gifts: _____

An opportunity we could explore: _____

9. Is my child becoming more responsible for their education?

As children mature, ownership should gradually move from:

Parent Directed → Parent/Student Partnership → Student Ownership

Where is my child right now? _____

10. What is our educational goal for this school year?

Don't simply hope for a “good year.”

Define what success means.

By the end of this school year, I would like my child to:

Your Parent Education Checkup

After answering the ten questions, identify your top three priorities:

Priority #1: _____

Priority #2: _____

Priority #3: _____

Then ask:

“What is one action I can take this week?”

A Final Word From Dr. Ella

You don't have to be an educator to become an effective advocate for your child's education.

You need knowledge.

You need communication.

You need consistency.

And you need the confidence to ask questions when you don't understand something.

Your child's education is a journey—and you don't have to navigate it blindly.

We're in this thing together.

— **Dr. Ella Jackson**

Need More Support?

If this checkup revealed areas of your child's education that you're unsure how to address, Dr. Ella Jackson's Family Education Consultation & Coaching provides personalized guidance to help families understand where they are, where they want to go, and what steps to take next.

Schedule a Family Education Consultation Today