

PAIR RENTS

by:

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Everyone is busy. But as I always tell my learners, our hustle and bustle should not be a reason for us not to attend to our duties and responsibilities. People of today are so occupied that they cannot manage their time especially if they are parents already. Nevertheless, that status or condition should not be used as an excuse for us to neglect our top priorities: our children. But then, it is difficult sometimes to rank our priorities when we get tangled in some circumstances.

As a parent, we always try to make both ends meet. Unfortunately, it frequently compromises our time and attention toward our children. In fact, we were the prime reasons sometimes why they became addicted to gadgets, social media, and the like. If you are a teacher and a parent at the same time, you will really feel guilty for not being able to assist and guide your own child in learning their class lessons, doing their assignments, and being personally present in their school presentations, contests, or activities. How ironic that you even felt sad for your students whose parents cannot make it to your Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) when in fact, you were unable to attend the PTC of your own child.

I personally experienced the same, but if our child already needs our undivided attention, I hope we can drop everything even just for once. According to Desforjes and Abouchaar (2003), 'at-home good parenting' is a strong predictor of children's achievement. Furthermore, Mahuro and Hungi (2016) discovered in Uganda that parental involvement, in the form of time and resources devoted to their children's education, is crucial in motivating children to enhance their academic performance.

Therefore, when we enroll our children in school, they become pupils, students, or learners. But that did not deny their title as our daughter or son. Henceforth, their teachers may serve as their second parents but will never replace the real ones no matter what.

Thus, I hope, that although it is a challenge to give our full time, may we be able to at least find time to give our fair share. Let us pair up with the teachers. Participate and talk with them about your child. It means a lot not only for us teachers but most importantly for our children.

References:

Desforges, C.; Abouchaar, A. (2003). The impact of parental involvement, parental support and family education on pupil achievements and adjustment: A literature review. Research report, 443. London: Department for Education and Skills.

Mahuro G.M.; Hungi, N. (2016). Parental participation improves student academic achievement: A case of Iganga and Mayuge districts in Uganda. Cogent Education, 3 (1).