



October News

Miami Springs Middle School

Establish specific, reasonable expectations for middle schoolers

It's important to set expectations for your middle schooler. It's just as critical, though, to be clear and reasonable about those expectations. So instead of telling her to "calm down", for instance, try being more specific: "I expect you to speak respectfully to me, even when I say 'no' to something."

Here are examples of how to be specific when setting expectations for your middle schooler:

- **Limit phone calls.** "You can talk on the phone for up to an hour each night. But there are no calls-incoming or outgoing- after 9 p.m."
- **Put schoolwork first.** "You're free to watch TV or play video games after you've finished all of your homework, not before."
- **Keep you posted about her plans.**

Increase reading comprehension by identifying the main idea

It's difficult for your middle schooler to enjoy what she reads if she doesn't completely understand it. A key part for understanding a story is being able to identify the main idea or the main message the author wants to send through the story.

You can help your child find the main idea by asking her a few questions, such as:

- What was your mood after you fin-

"If there's someplace you want to go, let me know ahead of time. Try not to spring things on me at the last minute."

- **Participate in family events.** Give your middle schooler plenty of time with her friends, but don't totally excuse her from family activities. "Remember, we have lunch with Grandpa every Sunday, and you need to be there."
- **Clean up after herself.** "Dirty laundry goes in the hamper. Any dirty clothes left on your bedroom floor won't get washed."

Source: Ray Burke, Ph.D., Ron Heron and Bridget A. Barnes, Common Sense Parenting: Using your Head as Well as Your Heart to Raise School-Aged Children, ISBN:1-889322-70-9

Maria C. Mason,
Principal

2008-2009

October Events

Teacher Planning Day 10/09

Title I Parent Meeting 10/22
9:30 a.m.
Media Center

Live Theater in Auditorium 10/23
3:40-5:00 p.m.

End of First Grading Period

Teacher Planning Day 10/24

Beginning of Second Grading Period 10/27



ished the story? Do you think that was what the author wanted? Why?

- Of all the things that happened in the story, which one did you think was the most important? Why?
- Who do you think were the main characters (most important people) in the story? Do you think you were supposed to learn something from

what happened to them? What do you think you were supposed to learn?

- Did you ever get the feeling the author wanted to change your mind about anything? If so, what?

Source: Drew and Cynthia Johnson, Homework Heroes: Grades 6-8. ISBN: 0-7432-2259-8.