

Radio Interview: Helping Your Child in School

Read the dialogue together twice, switching roles. Alternatively, you may create a recording of the dialogue on your smart phone before your lesson and use it as a listening activity instead of reading. After reading or listening twice, do the follow-up questions together.

Ted: You're listening to WKVS, Radio Chicago. Our guest today is Kendra Williams. Kendra is a teacher in the Chicago public schools, and she wrote a great book called *Helping Your Child in School*. Welcome.

Kendra: Thank you, Ted.

Ted: So, Kendra. What advice do you have for parents who want to help their kids in school?

Kendra: Well, the first thing I tell parents is to get involved with their children's school. For example, join the parent-teacher organization, and go to school events. Some parents think they can't participate. Maybe they have an accent, or their grammar isn't perfect. That doesn't matter. You have the right to ask questions. And you should go to all meetings and parent-teacher conferences so you'll know what's happening in the classroom.

Ted: Any other advice to help children succeed at school?

Kendra: Yes. I believe parents should help their children with their homework. Look it over. Talk about it.

Ted: Hmm. Parents will learn a lot, too.

Kendra: Yes. They probably will.

Ted: Okay, this is all good advice. But what about other problems, Kendra, that aren't about schoolwork? For example, what can a parent do if other children are bullying their child? Or if the area around the school isn't safe?



Kendra: Those are really important questions, Ted. Well, first, they should write a note to the teacher. If the teacher can't help, the parent can see the vice-principal. One of the vice-principal's jobs is to make the school safe. He or she can discipline students. So, get to know your child's school and the vice principal and teachers. They can often help.

Ted: Well, thank you so much. Your suggestions are very helpful. Please call us at 1-800-555-WKVS.

A. Who is Kendra Williams?

- a. a principal b. a parent c. a writer and teacher

B. Read the statements. Read or listen to the interview again if you need to. Write **T** (true) or **F** (false) according to the interview.

- _____ 1. Parents should get involved with their child's school.
_____ 2. Parents shouldn't come to school if their English isn't good.
_____ 3. Parents need to go to one parent-teacher conference each year.
_____ 4. Parents should look at their children's homework a few times each month.
_____ 5. Parents should not write to their child's teacher. Teachers are too busy.
_____ 6. Vice principals help make sure students behave well.

C. Kendra Williams talks about schoolwork. Then she answers questions about two other problems. What are they? Circle them. Listen or read again if you need to.

- a. safety outside the school c. teachers who pick on students
b. safety in the classroom d. children who pick on other children

D. Talk with your tutor.

- What do you do to help your child with school?
- What would you like to do more of in the future?
- What can your tutor help you practice so you can get more involved in the future?

