DO PARENTS HAVE THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON THEIR CHILD’S ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OR DOES THE CHILD’S TEACHER HAVE MORE INFLUENCE?

Students develop their skills and interests using different sources and methods, which, actually, may not always be formal or academic. They communicate with their peers, share their knowledge and help one another to find out what truly grabs their attention. Teaching students may be troublesome for both parents and teachers. They both enhance their academic development, but they do so in different ways.

Firstly, the amount of time children spend with their family is much more than the 5 hours of lessons that children usually attend. However, this does not mean that they learn more at home than at school, since it is not the quantity of time which really matters in education. On the contrary, it is the quality of teaching. Teachers do not only teach subjects, they also teach how to live in a formal environment and how to properly deal with new experiences. They are mentors, guides and their job is to shape students’ education and behaviour. Sometimes they are perceived as threats or authorities, though, and as a result students do not trust what they are taught at school or the school as a whole.

Secondly, parents’ influence on their children’s academic development can be very valuable. If parents expose them to culture and knowledge in an interesting ~~non-boring~~ and non-academic way, even the most unwilling learner will learn. However, parents may lack the right skills and methodology a teacher has studied to have, and in addition, children may disregard parents’ teaching.

All things considered, it may be said that everyone learns in a way that is suitable for his/her needs, therefore, the influence of both parents and teachers is important and neither one can be said to be the sole influential factor.

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