

PARENTING PARTNERSHIP

Making the School Year Work

1. Set time aside so you and your partner can discuss life now that the kids are back in school where there will be NO distractions. That means turning phones off and staying totally focused on the task at hand. If you even here the buzz from the phone, one of you will get distracted and you will move onto other things. Taking time now, to come up with a plan you both agree to, will save you future frustration, anger and resentments. That's a win for everyone.
2. Identify the areas in your child's life that will impact you and your partner. Take your time and flush out the areas that might give you trouble or have given you trouble in the past and identify the areas where you seem to work together in perfect harmony. Maybe the morning routines is great until one of the kids has a melt down and you have no plan on how the kids will get to school now that they missed the bus. There are so many areas where we can get tripped up, that taking some time now is sure to save you time in the weeks and months to come.
3. Write down your ultimate goal and then the steps you have to take to reach your goal. Remember that the kids are involved so there are bound to be set-backs, but when you and your partner have a plan, you can bounce back quickly and make any adjustments necessary.
4. Be sure that you don't spend time trying to convince your partner to see things your way. Even if you win, you will ultimately lose because frustration can easily turn to resentment. Take a break if you feel yourself getting heated up or defensive and remember, that you are lucky enough to be with someone who loves your children as much as you do, so stay open.
5. There is not one way for raising amazing kids. Every child is born amazing. It takes parents who are willing to work together, put their egos aside and work cooperatively and collaboratively together in the best interest of your kids to make things work for everyone.

For more information on how to work with your partner, check out my new book, *Parenting as Partners, How to Launch Your Kids without Ejecting your Spouse*.