

IT TAKES A VILLAGE GAME

The following scenarios can be used for It Takes a Village Game. You may cut out the scenarios or read the scenarios to participants, and request responses. Possible answers may vary; some participants could give two of the possible answers in combination, or provide an answer not listed. You will therefore need to adapt as necessary. The points and recommendations are to be used as guidelines. You should adjust the language as appropriate for the participants.

SCENARIO 1:

It is the first day of school and your child has returned from school with a lot of documents you do not understand. What do you do?

Possible Answers	Points and Recommendations
Do nothing and expect your child will understand the information	0 points - This is problematic because often there may be documents that a parent needs to sign.
Go online and see if you can get more answers about the documents there	1 point - This could help, but ensure that the website you are viewing is credible and connected to the school.
Ask for help from neighbors	1 point - This may not provide the most accurate interpretation of the documents but may be more efficient than going to your Resettlement Agency or school.
Bring the documents to your Resettlement Agency and ask them what to do	2 points - This could be a positive approach, especially during the initial resettlement period. However, over time, parents should be encouraged to communicate with the school directly.
Contact or go to the school and ask them about the documents	3 points - This would be a good solution. Parents could also ask if the school has any of the documents translated.

SCENARIO 2:

Your child is doing homework, and you realize you don't understand what they are learning at school in the area of _____ (select subject). What do you do?

Possible Answers	Points and Recommendations
Do nothing and assume that as long as the child understands then it is fine	0 points - This does not demonstrate having an active role in the child's education. This could have other consequences; for example, not knowing if your child is having difficulty understanding a particular subject at school.
Ask another adult (neighbor or family member) to explain what the child is learning	1 point - This could be an option, but it does not provide a regular mechanism that can be used over the long-term.
Ask the child what he/she is learning	2 points - This promotes a positive relationship between the parent and the child. However, this may pose challenges for certain participants based on cultural norms.
Use a library or reliable online resources to learn more about the subject your child is studying at school	2 points - This helps to build self-sufficiency and also promotes accessing community resources. It is important that parents use credible and reliable resources.
Request a meeting with the teacher to better understand what the child is learning	3 points - This is a good solution and it will allow you to develop a better relationship with the teacher and the school.



SCENARIO 3:

Your child has stopped doing homework in the evenings. What do you do?

Possible Answers	Points and Recommendations
Do nothing and assume that your child doesn't have any homework	1 point - While it's possible your child may not have homework on occasion, it is always better to ask.
Speak to your child about why he/she is not doing any homework	2 points - Having a conversation with your child would be a positive place to start.
Contact the teacher and ask about assignments	2 points - It may be necessary to contact the teacher, but speaking to your child first would be useful before contacting the teacher.
Check online to see what assignments your child is supposed to be working on	2 points - Sometimes schools have online portals for parents and students to review assignments and student progress, so this may be a good solution.

SCENARIO 4:

You receive your child's report card, and he/she is doing well, except for in the subject of English. What do you do?

Possible Answers	Points and Recommendations
Do nothing and hope that your child's grades will improve	0 points - It is not advisable to do nothing as it is expected in the United States that parents have an interest in their child's success in school.
Identify possible tutoring options for your child or find extra English classes available in the community	1-2 points - It is good that the parent looks for extra support either within the school or from the community, though this option may or may not cost additional money (depending on services).
Request a parent-teacher conference to discuss the child's progress	2 points - It may be very useful, after speaking with your child to also speak with the teacher. This may help in identifying ways to help your child do better.



SCENARIO 5:

Your child has expressed interest in attending university after high school. What do you do?

Possible Answers	Points and Recommendations
Do nothing because you know the family cannot afford university	0 points - While higher education does cost money, there are options, including scholarships that may help. There is a lot of variation in the cost of higher education and ways to pay for higher education (loans, scholarships), so it is important to research specific schools, tuition, and costs.
Talk to a neighbor or other adult about what they would do	1 point - While talking to others can be helpful, this should not be your only source of information.
Conduct research online about how to help your child find information about higher education	2 points - Conducting research online can be helpful, but ensure you are obtaining the information from credible sources. You can check with the Resettlement Agency, library, or school guidance counselor for credible sources on higher education.
Contact the school and determine what assistance they can provide	2 points - The school should be able to direct you to some resources on higher education, and they usually have staff members that can help students and parents with these decisions.