

Do you encourage your child to work independently?

“Mom, I can’t do it. I need help!” Every child makes that plea once in a while. But if your child says it every day, you may need to help her become more independent.

Answer yes or no to the questions below to find out if you are fostering self-reliance:

___ 1. Do you tell your child that you believe she can do it?

___ 2. Do you help her break big projects down into smaller pieces that are easier to finish?

___ 3. Do you remind her of the importance of effort? “You couldn’t ride a bike the first time you tried. But you kept at it. You’ll learn this, too, if you keep at it.”

___ 4. Do you ask her questions when she gets stuck? “What did you learn when you read the chapter?”

___ 5. Do you compliment your child when she finishes work on her own?

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are yes, you are helping your child learn how to work on her own. For no answers, try those ideas.

Reprinted with permission from the March 2017 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2017 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.