

Cheating: What is it and why do students do it?

Cheating occurs any time a student puts his name to work that is not his own. This includes copying another student's homework, giving answers to a test, plagiarizing work from the Internet—and even turning in work that was mostly completed by parents.

If you learn that your child has been cheating, what do you do? Your first instinct may be to ground him for the rest of his life! Instead, sit down and talk with him. Ask why he feels the need to cheat. Is it because he:

- *Is afraid of what you might do* if he brings home a bad grade? Make sure your child knows that you will always love him, and that you would be more concerned than angry about low grades.



- *Has unrealistically high expectations* for himself? Tell him that grades don't reflect his worth or intelligence. Help him set challenging, achievable goals.
- *Thinks cheating is no big deal?* Tell him that cheating *is* a big deal and it is wrong. Cheaters rob themselves of learning and cheating is unfair to honest students.

Firm, Fair & Consistent

Copyright © 2015 The Parent Institute, a division of NIS, Inc. www.parent-institute.com
May be reproduced by Firm, Fair & Consistent® newsletter subscribers.

THE PARENT
INSTITUTE