



- 60. **Make** eye contact with teens, smile and talk to them.
- 61. **Compliment** a child, even the ones you've just met.
- 62. **Donate** money or items to help students travel abroad.
- 63. **Learn** something from a child. They love it when they can teach a grown-up.

- 64. **Ask** a teacher to describe their biggest challenges.
- 65. **Look** up 5 new words in the dictionary. If you don't own a dictionary get one.
- 66. **Read** a magazine, book or whatever else interests you.
- 67. **Spend** an hour just browsing the library.
- 68. **Ask** a friend what the three most pressing issues are in their field of business and how they affect everyone.
- 69. **Read** an editorial you don't agree with and then discuss it with someone else.
- 70. **Rent** "Freedom Writers," watch it with teens and talk about it.
- 71. **Send** a card to a local student congratulating them on their success.
- 72. **Attend** a local event that you've never been to before.
- 73. **Surf** the Web to learn something new.
- 74. **Catch** a show on the History or Biography Channel.



- 75. **Attend** a school board meeting.
- 76. **Be** a study buddy.
- 77. **Support** a local school's sport teams.
- 78. **Read** a book just for fun.

### Community Citizens

- 79. **Take** at least two kids to an event in the community.
- 80. **Compliment** a kid specifically. (Example: You really gave it your all when you made that jump shot. I think that is the highest I've seen you jump yet.)
- 81. **Walk** up to a young person at McDonald's on a Wednesday morning and, as a member of the community, ask them why they aren't in school.

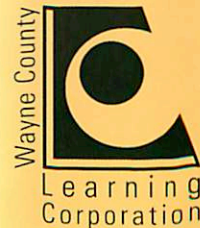
### Business Citizens

- 82. **Set** a policy of hiring high school graduates only for your full-time positions.
- 83. **Give** employees time off for parent/teacher conferences.
- 84. **Be** a study buddy and encourage your employees to do it too.
- 85. **Offer** job-shadowing and internship opportunities.
- 86. **Encourage** employees to continue their training and to seek further education.
- 87. **Make** appointments available for students and parents outside of school and work hours, especially if you are a general services or healthcare provider.
- 88. **Make** sure your practices and policies support the value you place on education.
- 89. **Get** to know a local teacher that teaches a topic related to your business. Build a relationship with them and offer help.

- 90. **Sponsor** academic teams.
- 91. **Talk** engagingly to students about your career and field of work.
- 92. **Post** employees' kids successes on your bulletin board.
- 93. **Continue** learning yourself; attend conferences which are relevant to your line of work.
- 94. **Help** your community by adopting a road or a classroom.
- 95. **Allow** your employees to volunteer for educational organizations during work hours when possible (Junior Achievement, Communities in Schools, Mentors, etc.)
- 96. **Acknowledge** your workers who support educational organizations.
- 97. **Encourage** older workers to be mentors to younger ones.
- 98. **Raise** relevant questions with school authorities and organizations if you see children who are not being served.
- 99. **Think** of other ideas to improve education and learning in Wayne County and share them with us.



*We're Calling on Everyone!*



**Wayne County Learning Corporation**  
33 South 7th Street  
Richmond, IN 47374  
765-962-1511

Become an Agent of Change for Education

**99 Ways** to help Wayne County Get Smart(er)

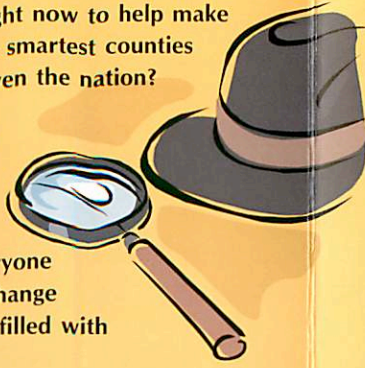


**GET SMART**

**W**ould you believe that there are 99 things that you can do right now to help make Wayne County one of the smartest counties in the state and maybe even the nation?

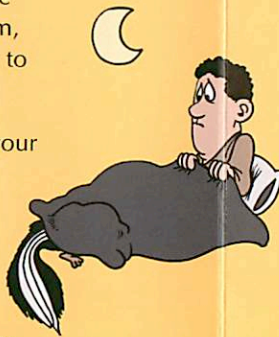
The level of education in Wayne County could be worse, but it could also be much better. That's why we're calling on everyone to become an Agent of Change and help create a county filled with lifelong learners.

It doesn't take much to get started. Put at least one or two of these 99 ideas into action and stand back. It could make a big difference in someone's life, maybe even yours!



## Your Family

1. **Value** your children's strengths. Never doubt that even if you can't...your kids can!
2. **Take** your children somewhere they've never been: a museum, Mexican grocery, camping or to help in a soup kitchen.
3. **Subscribe** to a magazine for your child.
4. **Set** expectations high – in education, household chores and treatment of others.
5. **Anticipate** some form of higher education for your children. Talk to them about job training and colleges.
6. **Know** your children's friends, talk to them and invite them into your house.
7. **Check** your child's homework but don't do it for them.
8. **Meet** your child's teachers and talk to them regularly.



9. **Spend** time at the library with your child.
10. **Eat** dinner together as a family.
11. **Know** what TV your kids watch and what they do online.
12. **Ask** your kids about their interests and learn about them.
13. **Give** all family members household responsibilities at a young age and create personalized chore charts.
14. **Provide** a safe and sober home for your kids.
15. **Go** for a family walk.
16. **Include** your kids in discussions with family and friends.
17. **Make** a dictionary of new words and add to it daily.
18. **Know** where your kids are and who is with them.
19. **Talk** with your kids early on about the hard stuff – drugs, alcohol, temptations and sex.
20. **Let** your child dream and help them fulfill those dreams.
21. **Make** sure they have a good breakfast every day and healthy snacks like veggies and fruits.
22. **Ask** your children to tell you 2 things that happened in school today. When they say nothing, keep asking!
23. **Talk** with your kids about jobs as they encounter them (highway workers, dentist, store clerks) and tell them about the education requirements for those jobs.
24. **Read** the Help Wanted ads with your children.
25. **Include** your child in planning family activities.
26. **Learn** something new, plan an imaginary trip or research a different country or religion.

27. **Read** together. Let them pick the book, point to words as you read them to help them connect what they hear with what they see.
28. **Talk** together about the different books you and your kids are reading.
29. **Teach** your child nursery rhymes. If you don't know them, find a book or website that has them.
30. **Do** community service activities together.
31. **Tell** family stories about yourself, your grandparents and other relatives.
32. **Work** a jigsaw puzzle with your child or play a board game – "Apples to Apples" is timely and funny.
33. **Encourage** trying new activities together – sports, music, acting, scouting, dancing, etc.
34. **Make** the car a headphone and cell phone free zone.
35. **Be** present when talking to your kids. Really listen (don't think about your laundry list of things to do).
36. **Never** ever give up on your child.
37. **Tell** them you love them and enjoy spending time with them. More importantly, show it.
38. **Praise** your child; acknowledge your child's efforts toward a goal, not just the final accomplishment.
39. **Make** a meal together; read the recipes and the labels.
40. **Help** your child open a savings account.
41. **Let** your children take responsibility for their actions.



42. **Don't** withhold your affection if they don't succeed.
43. **Help** your child realize they are special and unique.
44. **Encourage** your kids to write or keep a diary.
45. **Lead** a good example in exercise and diet.
46. **Make** sure your children arrive at school on time and limit their absences from school.
47. **Encourage** risk taking and problem solving.
48. **Establish** a daily homework routine.
49. **Attend** your children's events.



## Yourself

50. **Take** a course in something...anything that interests you.
51. **Share** your hobby or talent with someone.
52. **Spend** an hour a week with a child (not your own).
53. **Go** see kids perform (sports, arts, education).
54. **Be** a mentor (either formally or informally).
55. **Get** informed about education and learning in Wayne County and stay informed.
56. **Support** a not-for-profit organization either with an hour of your time or financially.
57. **Talk** to a child in your neighborhood, church or your child's school.
58. **Find** out what the ISTEP scores measure and mean.
59. **Offer** your help to the schools.