

# A.C.E. Parent Africa

## THE A.C.E. PARENT STARTER GUIDE

7 things every parent should understand about their child's A.C.E. journey

**Equipping Parents. Strengthening Learning. Raising Purposeful Leaders.**

A.C.E. can provide structure, independence and a clear path through academic work. But a child's education is bigger than completing PACE booklets. This guide helps parents look beyond completion toward understanding, character, communication, creativity and real-world competence.

### 1. Understand what “completion” tells you

A completed PACE shows progress through prescribed material. It does not automatically prove deep understanding, confidence, transfer or the ability to use knowledge in a new situation. **Ask:** Can my child explain the idea without the book? Can they give an example? Can they use it in everyday life?

### 2. Ask your child to explain

Make explanation a normal part of family life. Instead of asking only “What did you finish today?”, try “What did you learn?”, “Why does it work?”, “How would you teach it to someone younger?” or “Where could you use this?” Explanation exposes understanding and develops communication.

### 3. Protect independence — but stay connected

Independent learning is valuable, but independence should not become isolation. Know what your child is studying, notice patterns, celebrate effort, and step in when frustration or confusion persists. Your role is not to do the work for your child; it is to help the child become a stronger learner.

### 4. Look for transfer

The real test of learning is what happens outside the PACE. Look for children using mathematics when budgeting, reading when researching, science when observing the world, writing when communicating, and problem-solving when making decisions.

### 5. Develop character intentionally

Academic progress does not automatically produce responsibility, honesty, perseverance, self-control or service. Give children real responsibilities at home. Let them plan, make choices, experience reasonable consequences, repair mistakes and contribute to others.

### 6. Build critical thinking outside the PACE

Give your child questions that do not have a single obvious answer. Ask: “What makes you think that?”, “What evidence would change your mind?”, “What are the alternatives?”, “Who might see this differently?” and “What would happen if we changed one thing?”

## 7. Prepare for life beyond school

A strong education should prepare a young person to communicate, collaborate, create, lead, solve problems, manage resources and make wise decisions. Begin building these capabilities while the child is still in school—not after graduation.

### THE 15-MINUTE WEEKLY PARENT CONVERSATION

Once a week, sit with your child for just 15 minutes. Put the phone away and ask:

|   |                                                              |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is one thing you learned this week?                     |
| 2 | What was difficult—and how did you handle it?                |
| 3 | Can you show me where this knowledge is useful in real life? |
| 4 | What question are you still curious about?                   |
| 5 | What is one thing you want to improve next week?             |

*“You are not just raising a student. You are raising a person.”*

#### A.C.E. Beyond the PACE

The PACE is the foundation. Not the ceiling. A.C.E. Parent Africa exists to help African families strengthen the learning that happens before, during and beyond the PACE.

Visit [aceparentafrica.com](http://aceparentafrica.com) for parent articles, practical resources and future learning experiences.