

12 Secrets to Being a Black Belt Parent

Secret #1 : Black Belt Parents never interact with their children during class. They realize that watching a martial arts class is just like observing their child in regular school and the instructor is the only person in charge. Interrupting or interacting with their child would be disrespectful to the instructor and distracting to all of the students. Please refrain from all interaction unless requested by the instructor to do so.

Secret #2 : Black Belt Parents always bring something quiet to do during their child's class. They know that talking is disruptive to the class and to other parents who are reading or working quietly. If black belt parents want to socialize, they go outside until the class period is over. Parents and guests watch and wait quietly.

Secret #3 : Black Belt Parents always keep their future Black Belts, Tiny Tigers and Lil' Ninja's-to-be under control and quiet during their older sibling's classes. Crying, screaming or rowdy children can be a major distraction to class. Black Belt parents know this and always take overly enthusiastic little ones outside.

Secret #4 : Black Belt Parents realize that AMA Black Belt Academy is not a daycare center, so they drop off and pick-up their children promptly. They realize that the instructors cannot be responsible for their children left unattended before and after classes. If a child must unavoidably be left for extra time, black belt parents always make sure that their child knows where to sit quietly and wait.

Secret #5 : Black Belt Parents know and faithfully follow all school rules and policies. They follow them and enforce these rules with their children. When Mom and Dad follow school rules and regulations, then their child is more likely to follow their example.

Secret #6 : Black Belt Parents pay attention to what their children are learning in class and reinforce their positive behavior at home. They realize that as parents, they are an important part of the school's team, and help their children to improve by working with the instructors and staying informed.

Secret #7 : Black Belt Parents know that their child is an individual who will progress at their own rate. They never compare their child to a sibling or to other students. They encourage and support their children's progress and help them to set and achieve realistic goals.

Secret #8 : Black Belt Parents remember why their child started Martial Arts in the first place; not to just memorize forms, but to improve themselves as people. So, Black Belt parents are never harsh or pushy with instructors about how fast their child is learning. Black Belt parents know that memorizing is not necessary or important. They take a moment to see how their child is progressing as a whole person, realizing that rank graduation is just a part of the big picture.

Secret #9 : Black Belt Parents know that if they have a problem or concern about their child's training, progress, or about the school, they should go directly to the instructor, not to other parents. Black Belt parents never start or spread gossip. In fact, they do their best to stamp it out.

Secret #10 : Black Belt Parents are encouraging to all of the students in the school during class, testing and demonstrations. They know that through their example, their children will also learn to encourage and support everyone in the martial arts school.

Secret #11 : Black Belt Parents always make sure that they and their children show extra respect and courtesy when attending tournaments and other Martial Arts functions . They especially avoid confrontations with judges and other parents. Showing respect and courtesy is a great way to teach their children how to be good sports, whether they win or lose. If they do have a concern, they respectfully take it directly to the tournament director, or to an event staff member.

Secret #12 : Black Belt Parents will always help their children set goals both in and out of Martial Arts. These black belt parents know that goal setting will help their children develop the perseverance and self discipline needed to stick to commitments and achieve great personal success.

