

6 Tips for Involving Your Child in the Elections

1. Read the letters between Abraham Lincoln and Grace Bedell and encourage your child to write suggestions of his/her own to candidates bit.ly/lincoln-grace and read the full story bit.ly/bedell-story.
2. Pick a favorite candidate and follow him/her in the polls. Chart the candidate's progress on a piece of graph paper. Select a back-up candidate in case the favorite drops out of the race.
3. Watch the debates and keep score. Discuss agreement or disagreement with analysis of the debates.
4. Attend local events, such as party caucuses. Take your child with you to vote.
5. Make a small donation to a campaign, have a sign in the yard, or volunteer at a campaign office.
6. Keep a countdown to election day. On election day, host a watch party. Print out an outline map of the United States (find one here bit.ly/print-map) and color the states in blue or red as the results come in. Write congratulatory messages to the winner and consolation emails to the other candidate.

Extra tip: There are some fabulous books about elections written just for kids. From DK Eyewitness's *Vote* to Judith St. George's *So You Want to Be President?*, there are many quality books about running for office.