




# Important Things You Can Do To Help Your Child With Homework

- **Show your child that You think education and homework are important!**  
Children are more eager to do their homework if they know you expect it to get it done.
- **Set a time each day for homework.** The best time is one that works for your child and your family. Encourage your child to pick a place to study that is fairly quiet and has lots of light. A desk is nice, but the kitchen table or a corner of the living room is just fine too.
- **Help your child concentrate.** By turning off the TV and saying no to social telephone calls during homework time you help your child to focus. If you live in a small or noisy household, have all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time. Ask your child's teacher how long their homework should take. Timers help to make your child aware of time spent on work.
- **Encourage your child to create a "homework box".** A box with all of the things they will need for homework like: paper, books, pencils, a dictionary, a ruler and crayons, helps to teach your child how to be organized. Tell your child's teacher, school counselor or principal if you need any help getting your child these things.
- **Set a good example by reading and writing yourself.** Your child learns what things are important by watching what you do. Encourage a daily "reading time" and leave your child written notes.
- **Read and write with your child.** This helps to create interest in reading and language and helps your child to become a lifelong reader and learner. Try creating a chore chart with your child!
- **Take your child to the library.** Encourage your child to check out books to read for pleasure and any materials needed for homework. Talk to your child about their school day to support their learning. Attend school activities, such as parent-teacher meetings, performances and sports events. When you attend school activities you help to teach your child that you think it is important to support their learning.
- **Check on your child's work.** How closely you watch over their homework will depend on: the age of your child, how independent they are and how well they do in school. In most homes, more homework gets done when TV time and computer time is limited. Set a time for TV that is after homework time. Always monitor TV viewing.
- **When the school year starts contact your child's teacher.** Find out what kinds of assignments will be given and ways you can be involved. Some teachers only want parents to make sure assignments are done but others want parents to go over homework and point out the mistakes.

- **Check to see assignments are started and finished on time.** If you aren't home when the homework is finished, look it over when you get home. Encourage your child to use an assignment notebook or planner. These things help your child learn to be organized.
- **Provide guidance to your child.** The basic rule in helping with homework is, "don't do the assignment yourself. It's not your homework - it's your child's." Here are some things you can do to give guidance. Tell your child that homework is their time to shine by showing what they understand. Give Praise. People of all ages like to be told when they have done a good job. Give help and suggestions when your child hasn't done their best work.
- **Figure out how your child learns best.** Knowing this makes it easier for you to help your child. For example, if your child learns things best when they can see them, draw a picture or a chart to help with some assignments. But if your child learns best when they can handle things, cutting paper shapes can help them to learn fractions. If you've never thought about your child's learning style, observe your child and ask their teacher for input.
- **Encourage good study habits.** Help your child to use a calendar to write down when projects are due. See that your child schedules enough time for assignments and makes their own practice tests at home before a test. When a big research report is coming up, encourage them to use the library and break these big projects into smaller parts to do over time so they don't feel overwhelmed.



- **Talk with your child about assignments and ask questions.** This helps your child think through an assignment and break it into small workable parts. For example, ask if they understand the assignment, when they should start it and what they feel they may need some help with.
- **Talk with someone at school if problems come up.** If homework problems come up, everyone needs to work together to resolve them—the school, teachers, parents and student.
- **Call and meet with your child's teacher.** Communicate frequently with your child's teacher if your child is refusing to do assignments, if you or your child can't understand the instructions, or if you can't help your child get organized to do the assignments.



- Does your child have a hard time finishing assignments on time? Perhaps they have poor study skills and needs help getting organized.
- Is the homework too hard? Maybe your child has fallen behind and needs special help from a teacher or tutor.
- Are they bored with the homework? Perhaps homework is too easy and your child needs extra assignments that give them more of a challenge. Or perhaps, they would be more interested if another way could be found for them to learn the same material!

- **Remember that your child's teacher wants to help you and your child.** You and your child's teacher can work together to find solutions to problems your child encounters. Different problems require different solutions. Check with the teacher and your child to make sure that the solution or plan that is created, is working to solve the problem.