

Helping your Child with Homework

Research shows that when parents become involved in their children's schoolwork, the children do better in school. One way that you can get involved is by helping your child with their homework. It will benefit both your child's school work and self-esteem.

One important aspect of helping your child with homework is to find out if the homework is appropriate. If your child is reading or doing mathematics below grade level, the homework should reflect this fact.

Here are ten tips to help with home work:

Keep in touch with your child's teacher to be fully aware of the homework expectation and if the homework that your child is turning in reflects their grasp of the subjects being taught.

Set a schedule, including a beginning and ending time. Most children need some time to unwind after school before they tackle their homework. Completing homework too close to bedtime may be difficult for the child due to fatigue.

Encourage your child to divide the homework assignment into "What I can do myself" and "What I need help with". You should only help with the part of the homework that your child cannot do independently, such as practicing for a spelling test and clarifying assignments. This builds responsibility and independence in your child.

Hold off on watching TV and other fun activities until homework is completed
Provide a home study center for your child with adequate light and few distractions.
Also, a dictionary, paper, pens, etc should be readily available.

Use direct praise for doing the homework and even more for the accomplishment.
"You've spelled 18 out of 20 words correctly – you are really good at spelling."

Be available when your child is doing homework, so that you can answer a question if there is confusion. If possible, it is better for you to be in another room, so that you are easily accessible and yet not a distraction

Look over the homework when it is completed. Do not correct it unless you have checked with the teacher. Seeing the pattern of errors is often helpful to a teacher

Study groups are often a good strategy. Your child may benefit from studying with one or two classmates. However, make sure that they are using the time to study.

Allow bathroom, drink, and or snack breaks, but insist on the completion of the assignments.

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