

HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS

Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary are available.

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

Help your child with time management.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

Be positive about homework.

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

When your child does homework, you do homework.

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.

Giving answers means that your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

Stay informed. Talk with your child's teacher.

Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

Let your child take a short break if he is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

Reward progress in homework.

If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

Source: US Department of Education

MAKE HOMEWORK COUNT

Homework can help your child to learn more quickly and to remember things better. It is a way for your child to practice what he or she is learning and to prepare for the next day's classes. Here are some hints for making sure your child gets the most out of the homework given:

- Set a regular time for homework to be done.
- Make sure that your child has the papers, books, and materials to do the homework.
- Encourage your child to study at a desk or table rather than in a bed or easy chair.
- Let your child see you reading and writing.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher and find out how you should be involved in your child's homework.
- Assure that your child's assignments are completed. If your child has no homework day after day, talk with your child's teacher to be sure that he or she is completing assigned work at school.
- Limit the amount of time that your child spends watching TV
- Limit calls from friends, or loud noises in the background when your child is doing homework
- **Expect your child to keep notes on daily assignments. Ask him or her to tell you what he or she is doing in class and for homework.**
- If you are unable to help your child with difficult homework, contact the school to see if homework assistance is available through an after-school program or a homework hotline.

Source: RMC Research. Denver, Colorado

What Is Parental Involvement, Exactly?

Parental involvement in your child's education can mean:

- Reading to your child
- Checking homework every night
- Discussing your children's progress with teachers
- Voting in school board elections
- Helping your school to set challenging academic standards
- Limiting TV viewing on school nights
- Becoming an advocate for better education in your community and state.

Or, it can be as simple as asking your children, "How was school today?" But ask every day. That will send your children the clear message that their schoolwork is important to you and you expect them to learn.

Some parents and families are able to be involved in their child's education in many ways. Others may only have time for one or two activities. Whatever your level of involvement, do it consistently and stick with it because you will make an important difference in your child's life.

Source: www.nea.org