

Homework for Parents

Some of the information adapted from the Channing L. Bete Co. booklet, "You, Your Child and Homework".



Teachers give homework to help students review and practice lessons, prepare for class, and develop skills that will help them think and learn. When parents support their kids' school and homework children show more interest, learn more, get higher grades, score higher on achievement tests, learn to be responsible, and succeed. Supporting homework can be done in many ways:

- Help set up a study area where your child can do homework each day. Choose the spot together that is quiet, comfortable, well lit, and properly supplied with paper, pens, pencils, and other supplies like a dictionary, atlas, ruler, etc.
- Schedule daily homework times. Choose the right amount of time for your child. Avoid conflicts with other activities like dance, scouts, and sports. Be on hand. Leave the TV off.
- Don't do your child's homework for him or her. Instead:
 - Set the stage. Remind your child when it's homework time.
 - Answer questions, when you can. Help your child think about what he or she is studying by making comparison, talking about new ideas, and raising questions.



- Don't try to "teach". Help your child by going through the directions together and working on the first problem with him, then let him finish.
 - Encourage your child to solve problems on her own before asking for help. Point out resources like the dictionary, an atlas, and calling a classmate. On the other hand, don't let him frustrate on his own over difficult assignments.
 - Motivate your child to do his or her best. Your words and actions make a difference. Encourage and praise regularly. Reward with an occasional treat after a hard lesson or project. Developing the motivation to do his or her best is the target.
- Help with study skills. Many children do not have good study skills. Help your child to:
 - organize assignments. Use a daily assignment notebook to note project deadlines, weekly spelling tests, etc. Check your child's assignments and assignment notebook daily.
 - follow directions. Have your child read them out loud, or break them down into steps and number them.
 - take notes. When doing the reading a chapter or for a report he/she should write down the topic headings, main ideas, and important names.
 - estimate the amount of time each assignment will take. "Beat the clock" helps with staying focused, completing assignments, and estimating the time the work will take.
 - study for tests. Teach your child to review notes, reread important chapters, make up and answer possible test questions. Don't let your

child put off studying until the night before the test. Cramming is not effective.

- Team up with teachers. Meet or talk regularly to find out about the subjects covered in class and your child's strengths and weaknesses. Find out what to expect with regard to homework, the time required to complete homework, and special projects. Discuss homework problems with the teacher.
- There are occasional children who make homework such a hassle for the parents that other methods may need to be used. You may want to talk with your child's teacher, the school psychologist, social worker, or school counselor for additional information.

