

Succeed in School

Help your child develop good study skills

When children study, they increase their understanding of the material, become more self-disciplined, develop perseverance and build research skills. The most important thing to remember about studying is that it's your child's job—not yours. Doing homework for children hinders their learning and self-esteem. But your *help* can make a big difference.

Encourage organization

Without organization, it's hard to study effectively—if at all. Suggest that your child:

- **Write down assignments.** Give your child an assignment notebook. He should clearly record each assignment and when it's due.
- **Use self-stick notes.** Your child can attach them to books he needs for studying. After school, everything with a note on it goes home.
- **Plan ahead.** Break long-term assignments into small parts. Write each part's deadline on a calendar.
- **Make to-do lists.** Every day, your child should list tasks to complete during study time. Crossing them off will provide a sense of accomplishment.
- **File papers.** Divide a large binder into sections for each subject. Include folders for saving loose papers.
- **Put books by the door.** If your child's schoolwork is by the front door at night, he won't have to look for it in the morning.

Hint: Even organized kids forget to write down assignments once in a while. Suggest that your child exchange phone numbers with a classmate. Then occasional forgetfulness shouldn't cause a problem.

Share textbook study tips

You can also help by teaching your child these steps for studying a textbook chapter:

1. **Skim the chapter.** Read the title and all the section headings in the chapter to get a general idea of the topic.
2. **Look at the illustrations, charts and graphs.**
3. **Read the introduction to the chapter and the summary.**
4. **Read the review questions at the end of the chapter.**
5. **Read the chapter section by section.** Take each bold-faced section heading and turn it into a question. For example, if the heading of a section is **Causes of the American Revolution**, ask, "What were the causes of the American Revolution?" Then read on to find the answers to that question.
6. **Make key term or vocabulary cards.** On one side write a key term from the chapter (these are usually in bold-faced type). On the back, write the definition. The textbook may provide a glossary with definitions of the key terms.
7. **Answer the review questions at the end of the chapter.** Also use other helpful review sections provided.

