

## Succeed in School

### Busy parents can help children with homework

There's no way around it: Homework is a fact of life for all students. That means that all parents have to figure out how to fit homework into already-busy family schedules. These tips can help your child make the most of the time spent on homework.

#### What your child can do

- **Write down assignments.** Give your child an assignment notebook. He should clearly record each assignment and when it's due. Calendars can be used for planning big projects.
- **Pick a study time.** Any time is okay, as long as it's not late at night. The ideal time is when your child is most alert. This might be after school, after dinner or even early in the morning.
- **Choose a study spot.** It should be comfortable, well lit and stocked with supplies. If your child studies in the same place every day, she may find it easier to concentrate there than anywhere else.
- **Reduce distractions.** Let your child hang a "Do not disturb" sign while he works. This means no TV, visitors, text messages or loud music. Some students find that soft music helps them study. See what works best for your child.
- **Make to-do lists.** Each day, your child should make a list of tasks to complete during study time. Crossing them off will help her stay organized and feel a sense of accomplishment.



#### What you can do

- **Support your child, but don't do the homework.** Don't answer the questions for your child. Homework is a way to help children learn to be independent. If you do the work, your child won't learn that lesson.
- **Work together.** Make homework time family quiet time. While your child studies, you could pay bills, write letters or read. If your child is young, stay nearby to supervise and answer questions.
- **Help your child decide** which homework is going to be hard and which is likely to be easy. Then start with the hard tasks. That way, your child will be more alert when he is doing the toughest jobs.
- **Have your child read aloud to you** every night. As you are reading together, stop and ask her questions.
- **Stay in touch with your child's teacher.** Be sure to let the teacher know if your child struggles with homework every day. Ask what you can do to help the teacher help your child.
- **Be positive.** Your attitude will affect your child.