



From:

HOMework

Improve your child's homework skills by structuring his/her home-study environment.

The issue of homework brings to mind several common problems. Children forgetting to copy down, find out, or remember what the assignments are; forgetting to bring homework home; failing to do homework; and failing to turn in completed assignments are issues that turn homework into a nightmare for both parents and children. If these are issues you face, here are some ways you can deal more effectively with these concerns:

- Provide the child with a special notebook just for homework assignments. Nothing else is to be written in this notebook.
- When homework assignments are completed, the work is put into the special notebook so it can be turned in at school.
- Ask teachers to send a note home with the homework assignment which parents must sign and return.

SCHEDULING

It is best to have the child do his/her homework at the same time every day. Meals and bedtime are at regular times, and giving homework the same consideration gives it equal importance. The time will vary from household to household. A half hour after arriving home from school gives children time for a snack, but not time to get involved in other activities. If you feel playtime is essential after being in class for the day, then set a time for children to do their homework after they have had some time to play. The difficulty here is getting the child to stop playing and start working. Work should usually come before play, especially if the child is having difficulty remembering or completing assignments.

"I ALREADY DID MY HOMEWORK"

Sometimes children act as though they have already completed their homework when, in fact, they have not. When this happens, parents need to take a few additional steps. If the homework is something like math that can be checked, allow the child to go out to play only after the homework has been checked and approved. Reading is another matter. It is easy for children to pretend they have read an as-

ignment. Check this by taking the child's reading material and glancing through it to find a few questions to ask him/her. Pick two or three easy questions that will let you quickly determine whether the child has read the material.

STUDY HABITS BEGIN AT AN EARLY AGE

Good study habits should begin in the first grade. Insist that no radio or television be playing while the child is doing homework. Studies have repeatedly shown that most people learn better in a quiet atmosphere. Be willing to help, but don't do your child's work. If you feel your child needs help, make up a new problem similar to the homework problem, show him/her how to do it, and then have the child solve the original problem on his/her own.

REMEMBER...

- ✓ Use a homework notebook.
- ✓ Set a regular time for doing homework.
- ✓ Check and approve homework before the child goes out to play.