

Parent-Family Tips-Homework

Let your child know that you think education is important, and homework must be done to support learning.

Below are some ways to help your child with homework:

- Have a place for your child to study. The area should have good lighting and be fairly quiet. Provide supplies and identify resources such as pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper, and a dictionary. Other supplies that might be helpful include a stapler, paper clips, maps, pencil sharpener, tape, scissors, ruler, calculator, and/or index cards. If possible, keep these items together in one place. If you can't provide your child with needed supplies, check with her/his teacher, school counselor, or principal about possible sources of assistance. If a special place cannot be designated, try placing these items in a learning tote container or bag that can be moved to a quiet place to study.
- Set a regular time for homework. Having a regular time to do homework helps children to finish assignments. The homework schedule depends in part on your child's age, as well as his/her specific needs. A young child will need help to develop a schedule. An older child can take responsibility for making up a schedule independently, although you'll want to make sure that it's a manageable one. You may find it helpful to have your child write her/his schedule and put it in a place where you'll see it often, such as on the refrigerator.
- Remove distractions. Turn off the TV and discourage your child from making and receiving social calls during homework time. If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time. If distractions can't be avoided, your child may want to complete assignments in the local library.
- Check your child's work. When your child asks you to look at what's been done, show interest and praise her/him when something has been done well. If you have criticisms or suggestions, make them in a helpful way that supports learning.
- You may be reluctant to help your child with homework because you feel that you don't know the subject well enough or because you don't speak or read English as well as your child. Helping with homework doesn't mean doing the homework. It's about supporting your child to do his/her best. You may not know enough about a subject such as calculus to help your child with a specific assignment, but you can help nonetheless by showing that you are interested, helping your child get organized, providing a place or the materials he/she needs to work, and monitoring the work to see that it's completed. Don't forget to praise your child for work completion.