



Homework Hints



Honor the teaching methods of your child's teacher and school. Avoid confusing him with tricks or short-cuts that contradict what he has learned.

Offer a homework environment that is comfortable and free of distraction. Consider your child's personality when establishing the work area. Some children work best in total privacy, while others thrive with family members close by.

Model behavior you want your child to imitate. Let your child see you reading books, writing letters or balancing your checkbook while she does her homework.

Establish a consistent homework schedule. Children may need a break after school, although some prefer to get their homework done immediately. Avoid the bedtime hour when fatigue can lead to frustration and short tempers.

Withhold from preaching and criticizing. Be supportive and offer words of encouragement to ensure a positive homework environment.

Oversee your child's progress through frequent contact with his teacher. Learn what the teacher expects, and learn to recognize problems by asking questions and listening to your child.

Respect your child's individual learning style. Avoid comparing her work habits with those of other children or teaching her your way. Each child learns differently and should be encouraged to establish her own style.

Know your role as a parent. You should serve as a resource person your child can consult when questions or problems arise. Avoid getting caught up in correcting your child's work and policing his progress.

Help your child organize her work space. Make sure she has all needed materials before beginning her homework to avoid unnecessary interruptions.

Include the entire family in the homework schedule. This is a good time for all family members to do quiet activities.

Nourish your child's creativity by encouraging him to think aloud. Thoughts and ideas will start flowing when your child talks about his assignments. Avoid overwhelming him with your ideas. Instead, offer subtle hints to get the wheels turning.

Talk to your child about how homework teaches him responsibility and independence. Reinforce the idea that homework is a contract between the child and the teacher, not the child and the parent.

Set an ending time for homework. Focusing on a finishing rather than a starting time will allow your child to better pace himself and teach him the value of time management.

Jesse White • Illinois Secretary of State