

## Helping Your Child with Homework

### Make Sure Your Child Has:

- A quieter place to work with good light.
- A regular time each day for doing homework.
- Basic supplies, such as paper, pencils, pens, markers, and ruler.
- Aids to good organization, such as an assignment calendar, book bag, and folders.

### Questions to Ask Your Child

- What's your assignment today?
- Is the assignment clear? (If not, suggest calling the school's homework hotline or a classmate).
- When is it due?
- Do you need special resources (a trip to the library or access to a computer)?
- Do you need special supplies (graph paper or posterboard)?
- Have you started today's assignment? Finished it?
- Is it a longterm assignment (a term paper or science project)?
- For a major project, would it help to write out the steps or make a schedule?
- Would a practice test be useful?

### Other Ways to Help

- Look over your child's homework, but don't do the work!
- Meet the teachers early in the year and find out about homework policies.
- Review teacher comments on homework that has been returned and discuss with your child.
- Contact the teacher if there's a homework problem or need you can't resolve.
- Congratulate your child on a job well done.

Resources: Information was based on *Helping Your Child With Homework*, U.S. Department of Education.

# Learning Partners

## Homework Help

*Homework can help students learn and can help parents be involved in their children's education. When parents show an interest in their child's schoolwork, they teach an important lesson - that learning is fun and worth the effort.*

*Children who do more homework, on average, do better in school. And, as children move up through the grades, homework becomes even more important to school success.*

Teachers assign homework for many reasons. It can help a child:

- Practice what they have learned in school.
- Get ready for the next day's class.
- Use resources, such as libraries and encyclopedias
- Learn things they don't have time to learn in school.
- Homework can also help children learn good habits and attitudes.
- It can teach children to work by themselves and encourage discipline and responsibility.



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# Learning Partners

## Let's Succeed in School

*To succeed in school, parents need to be involved in their children's learning. Learning skills for success takes place at home as well as at school. Here are some of the things that parents can do at home and at school.*

### At Home

- Ask questions about things your children are learning and doing, and encourage them to give you lengthy answers.
- Keep books, magazines, and newspapers available. Use them yourself to show you value learning.
- Have paper, pencils, crayons, and washable markers handy. This encourages children to write.
- Watch TV with your children, talk with them about the things you like and dislike about the shows. Be sure to limit viewing time.
- Have a special place for studying that is free of distractions.
- Expect your children to succeed in school. Encourage them with praise for hard work.

### At School

- Share information with teachers so that both you and they know what is happening in school and home.
- Tell teachers what they need to know about your child and work as a partner with the teacher.



## Activities for Success

### What Do You Hear? - for young children

Listening is a skill that young children need to succeed in school.

1. Make up a story. You make up one sentence and then your child makes up one sentence. Repeat until you are ready to end it.
2. With a group, all but one person close their eyes. The person with eyes open makes a sound (with keys, paper, a spoon tapping a glass) that everyone else tries to guess.
3. Clap with hands to tap out a rhythm. Have your child listen and then clap that same rhythm back to you.

### Where Did I Put That? - for beginning students

Being organized will help a child control his or her learning activities. This will increase your child's self-confidence.

1. Turn a cardboard box (big enough for notebooks) into a special school box to hold all school things when your child comes home. The box would keep homework, books, supplies, hats, gloves, and other things, needed for the next school day.
2. Have your child decorate the box with pictures, words, or artwork and his or her name to make it his own. Each child in the family can have a separate box.

### A Daily Family Routine - for more advanced students

The goal is to encourage children to be self-reliant while having structure and rules. Family members can provide the structure and work together to set the rules.

1. Assign chores and household tasks.
2. Encourage good health habits (proper rest and exercise, nutrition, and regular meals).
3. Eat meals together.
4. Have a firm bedtime.

### How Much Time Will It Take?

Before your child starts a project, plan out how long it will take to do each step.

1. Choose a big assignment to talk about, such as a research project. Write down the steps needed to complete the job.
2. Work backwards from when the project is due. Estimate how long each step will take and decide when that step must be started to meet the deadline. Put start and finish dates next to these steps.
3. Arrange the steps of the assignment on a calendar or homework chart.

Resources: Information was based on *Helping Your Child Succeed in School; Strong Families, Strong School; and Hard Work and Higher Expectations*, U.S. Department of Education.