

Homework Strategies That Work

Completing homework on time contributes to school success.

- Homework reinforces skills learned in the classroom and provides additional practice.
- It allows children to be responsible and work independently.
- It maintains a link between home and school by encouraging children to talk about what they are learning, while providing parents with an opportunity to see how their children are progressing.

Four Things You Can Do to Help Your Child with Homework

1. Show that you think education and homework are important.

- Set a regular time and quiet place for completing homework.
- Have homework supplies available.
- Encourage responsibility for completing and returning homework.
- Talk with your child about homework assignments.

2. Monitor your child's work.

- Identify teacher expectations for completing assignments.
- Read and initial your child's homework notebook nightly. Encourage your child to keep a calendar with due dates of upcoming assignments.
- Check returned assignments for teacher comments.

3. Provide guidance.

- Don't do the assignments yourself! If your child gets stuck, help him/her solve the problem without giving the answer.
- Encourage good study habits. Your child may work more efficiently by using a timer or completing harder assignments first.
- Consider breaking big assignments into more manageable parts. Set realistic time frames for completing each task.

4. Talk with someone at school if a problem comes up.

- Use e-mail, notes, phone calls, or a teacher's website to locate homework information or to contact the teacher.
- Request a conference or call your child's teacher if difficulties arise. Create a plan to solve homework problems.
- Follow up with the teacher to make sure the plan is working.

5. Internet resources can be used to assist with homework completion. Some include:

- <http://www.yahooligans.com> (a web guide for kids)
- <http://www.tutor.com/maryland/default.asp> (Maryland Public Libraries Live Homework Help Program)
- <http://www.ajkids.com> (Ask Jeeves Study Tools)