

# Homework Tips

- ✓ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**  
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- ✓ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**  
Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- ✓ **Help your child with time management.**  
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- ✓ **Be positive about homework.**  
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- ✓ **When your child does homework, you do homework.**  
Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.
- ✓ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**  
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
- ✓ **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**  
Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
- ✓ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**  
Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.
- ✓ **Stay informed.**  
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
- ✓ **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**  
Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

- ✓ **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**  
Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.
- ✓ **Reward progress in homework.**  
If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.
- ✓ **Is it too difficult?** If you feel your child is struggling to complete their homework (e.g. a 15 minute assignment is taking them double or triple the time) Contact their teacher. Homework is to reinforce the skills that are being taught in school.

### **READING HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS**

- ✓ Have your child read aloud to you every night.
- ✓ Choose a quiet place, free from distractions, for your child to do their nightly reading assignments.
- ✓ As your child reads, point out spelling and sound patterns such as *cat*, *pat*, *hat*.
- ✓ When your child reads aloud to you and makes a mistake, point out the words she has missed and help her to read the word correctly.
- ✓ After your child has stopped to correct a word he has read, have him go back and reread the entire sentence from the beginning to make sure he understands what the sentence is saying.
- ✓ Ask your child to tell you in her own words what happened in a story.
- ✓ To check your child's understanding of what he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.
- ✓ Ask your child why she thinks a character acted in a certain way and ask your child to support her answer with information from the story.
- ✓ Before getting to the end of a story, ask your child what he thinks will happen next and why.

#### **From Ms. Tracy, School Media Specialist CBS:**

**"As the school librarian, one thing I would like to encourage parents to do is to read TO their children every day, even those who can read independently. The parent can model fluent reading, and most children can understand books that are read to them at a higher level than those they can read themselves. Do not be discouraged if your younger children are bringing home picture books instead of chapter books. Most picture books are written with adult-level vocabulary. They are designed for adults to read to children. In addition, there are many picture books being published for older readers. They usually introduce topics that are more suitable for upper-level students (such as the Revolutionary War or racial discrimination), in an easy-to-understand format."**