

# How to Help with Homework

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**Set a regular time every day for homework.**

The best schedule for homework is what works best for your child and your family. Your child's outside activities, such as sports or music lessons may mean that you need a flexible homework schedule. If there is not enough time to finish homework, your child may need to drop an outside activity.

**Provide supplies and identify resources.**

Have pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper and dictionary available. Other supplies that may be helpful include a stapler, paper clips, maps, a calculator, a pencil sharpener, tape, glue, paste, scissors, a ruler, index cards, a thesaurus and an almanac. Kids do a lot of projects in school, so keeping some poster board on hand is a good idea!

**Ensure that there are no distractions.**

Talk with your child about noise levels – some students need total silence, and others benefit from having quiet music in the background. Discourage your child from making and receiving social phone calls during homework time. Turn off the television and eliminate or limit computer time. Closely monitor social networks, such as Facebook and IM.

**Model lifelong learning skills for your child.**

Let your child see you reading, writing, using math and doing other things that require thought and effort. Talk to your child about what you do at work.

**Help your child see how the skills she's learning in school can be found in everyday routines.**

Teach your child to play word and math games. Help your child look up information she is interested in. Talk with your child about things you notice around you.

**Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations.**

Ask your child what was discussed in class that day. Ask her to explain a project, or what she thought about a story she discussed in school.

**Ask to see your child's work.**

Show interest in the work, rather than just asking, "Did you do your homework?" Ask your child to explain how she did something, what she liked about the assignment; what was hard for her, etc

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