

# Homework Success



Students are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework – it shows students that what they do is important.

Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows, you might even learn a thing or two!

Dr. Levin, Ph.D. (Professor of Education, Wheelock College) states that:

“One of the best ways to help children become independent and responsible learners (and get their homework done) is to encourage them to take ownership of their work.”

## ***Here are some tips to guide the way:***

1. **Know the teachers – and what they're looking for.** Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
2. **Set up homework-friendly area.** Make sure children have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies – paper, pencils, glue, scissors – within reach.



3. **Schedule a regular study time.** Some children work best in the afternoon, following a snack and rest period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
4. **Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary – and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
5. **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)

6. **Make sure children do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a child's job to do the learning.
7. **Be a motivator monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
8. **Set a good example.** Do your children ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Children are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. **Praise their work and efforts.** Post an ace'd test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
10. **If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher. Get their advice on how you can most effectively help your child at home and any extra support they can provide.

