



Parents in the Know

Focus on Study Skills

What's the Point of Homework?

Despite what many children believe, teachers don't give homework to punish children. Homework serves many purposes: It allows students opportunities to:

- **Review** and practice what was learned
- **Prepare** for the next day
- **Investigate** subjects more deeply



Developing Good Study Skills

There are many things you can do to help your child develop good study skills.

1. **Provide structure:** A set time and place for homework is important.
2. **Get to work:** When your child sits down to work, don't let her get distracted.
3. **Get organized:** Have your child make a list of what needs to be done and make sure needed supplies are available.
4. **Provide breaks** for older children who may be working on large assignments.
5. **Spread large assignments** over a variety of days.

Learning Styles



There are 3 commonly recognized styles of learning. Auditory learners learn through listening and language. Kinesthetic learners learn through hands-on activities. And, visual learners learn best through seeing things demonstrated or presented. Knowing what your child's learning style is can help you understand the way that he likes to study.

Kinesthetic learners often need to interact with a concept concretely to truly grasp the content. These learners often like some sort of manipulative to work with.

Visual learners benefit from having drawings, pictures, graphs, tables, diagrams, or demonstrations. So, writing things out while working on homework often helps.

Auditory learners like to listen to information aloud. So, reciting information aloud, studying while there is music playing, and memorizing facts to the tune of a favorite song may help.

What Research Says



Homework can have many benefits. It can help students comprehend and remember new information. It can help students develop good study skills, responsibility, and independence.

Parent involvement in homework can increase student learning, help parents gain insight into their child's strengths and areas of need, and encourage an appreciation for education. However, to be of benefit, parents must respect the fine line between helping their child with homework and doing their child's homework.

Based on: "Homework Tips for Parents", U.S. Department of Education,
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/index.html>

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Study Skills

Test Taking Skills

1. Don't wait to the last minute to study. Make sure that you keep up on what is going on in class and study nightly.
2. Make sure that you get plenty of sleep.
3. Listen closely to any instructions and read the directions.
4. Read through the test to get an idea of how long it is and what you will have to do.
5. Skip questions that you are unsure of and go back to them when you are done.
6. Ask your teacher if you don't understand the wording of a question.
7. Review all test answers before turning your test in.
8. Relax!



A Child's View



Sarah's mother was a little concerned after helping her study for her History test.

Ms. Jones: "Do you know the 20th President of the United States?"

Sarah: "No, we were never introduced!"

Ms. Jones: "Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?"

Sarah: "At the bottom."



http://www.charlotteparent.com/images/articlenewimages/HomeworkHelp_315.jpg

Ask the Teacher

It is important to know what is happening in your child's class. And, you need to make sure that you know how your child is doing. Some things you might want to ask your child's teacher are:

- What things should we be working on at home?
- How is my child behaving at school?
- Who does my child socialize with at school?
- What do you think are my child's strengths?
- How can I support my child's learning?
- Do you have any areas of concern regarding my child?

It is also important to let your child's teacher know that you want to work together with the teacher. Children value education more when they see their parent and teacher as a united front.



Book Corner

Spotlight on the Classics

Amelia Bedelia, by Peggy Parish
Curious George, by H. A. Rey
Eloise, by Kay Thompson
Make Way for Ducklings, by Robert McCloskey
Runaway Bunny, by Margaret Wise Brown

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity."

Eleanor Roosevelt