

# Supporting Home Learning Guidelines for Parents



## Be positive about homework

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

## 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 or accessing ICT based tasks.

## 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.

Remember that sometimes, siblings may provide too much support and not help with learning.

## 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 challenging homework and what is less challenging homework

Have your child do the challenging work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Less complicated 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. Consider offering a small snack and drink to help keep your child alert.

## 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.