

# ***HOMEWORK HINTS***

Homework is important because it teaches children responsibility. Children also learn how to begin and finish a task, how to follow directions, and how to organize their time. Children will do better in school if parents show an interest in their homework – but this does not mean you have to be the teacher or do the homework for your children! Unfortunately, homework often causes arguments between parents and children. We hope these guidelines will help minimize the conflicts.

Research is teaching us that children have different learning styles – they learn in different ways. Some children learn by hearing, some children learn by seeing, and some children learn by doing something with their hands. The following are general guidelines for elementary age children. But always remember – you know your child better than any one else does, so you know what will work well for your family.

**1. Homework should be done in a proper study area.**

Look for a place in your home where there is good lighting and not very much noise. Younger children are easily distracted by television, so please turn it off when children are studying. Children will often be able to work better if their parents or another adult is near by.

**2. All the supplies your child might need for doing homework should be kept close to the study area.**

You may want to keep all the supplies in a special box. Scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, pencil sharpener, erasers, paper and glue can be kept together so your child always has them available when she needs them.

**3. Homework time has to be scheduled into your child's daily routine.**

If possible, allow your child some time to play outside and have a healthy snack before doing homework. Your child will be able to concentrate better if he has had a break from school work and has been able to be outdoors exercising.

At first you will determine when your child does homework.

As your child gets older, let her help decide when she can do her work

Older elementary children can begin using a calendar to mark when projects and assignments are due.

**4. It is your child's responsibility to do the homework assignment.**

Parents can help by reading the directions with your child and answering his questions. Your encouragement is also very important. "I know this is difficult, but I think you can do it if you try." "I have seen you do math problems like that before." Do not do the homework for your child. Your child's teacher needs to know if the work is too difficult.

**Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders are responsible for making sure there is:**

**A place for homework**

**The supplies for homework**

**The time in the day for homework**

As your child grows, he should become more responsible. By the time he is in high school, he should be able to decide where he does his work, arrange for appropriate supplies and schedule his day to make sure there is time for homework.

If your child is having difficulty in school, please talk with your child's teacher and pediatrician.

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