

Homework Help for Parents

*Ways to accentuate the **purpose** of homework and eliminate the dreadfulness.*

As children get older, their load of homework increases year after year, generally speaking. It is important that parents understand, embrace, and value this experience for their child in order to provide support and ensure that the experience is meaningful for their children.

First, remember that homework has a purpose – school teachers do not assign homework purposely to make your life or your child’s miserable. Teachers usually assign homework for 1 of 4 very valid reasons:

- 1) For students to be able to **practice** a skill
- 2) To provide students with an opportunity to **prepare** them for an upcoming lesson
- 3) To extend their existing knowledge
- 4) To allow children to use their creativity and extend problem solving skills

Now that you understand the main reasons your child comes home with so much homework, here are some tips to help everyone succeed:

- 1) Create a special homework environment for your child – design the space together. What kind of furniture and accessories will be needed? Which room of the house will it be in? This provides a consistent, designated area for your child to feel safe, secure, and confident while doing school work. It will also encourage your child to stay organized.
- 2) Show a true interest in your child’s homework assignments – instead of dictating that the assignment must be complete, engage in a conversation about the assignment by asking your child questions.
- 3) Find a plan and stick with it – establish a homework time routine and stick with it as much as possible throughout the school year.
- 4) Be a role model – take the time to read a book or newspaper to instill similar values into your children.
- 5) Communicate with your child’s teacher – if your child is struggling and you are unsure of how to help – call or e-mail their teacher. School teachers are always excited to hear from parents and are always willing to help.
- 6) Acknowledge the hard work your child does – celebrate success stories or overcome obstacles throughout the course of the school year.
- 7) **HAVE FUN!**