



- 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. Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school & home are a team!
- Set up a homework friendly area. Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies (paper, pencils, glue, scissors) within reach.
- Schedule a regular study time. Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack & short play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- Help your child make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary & take time for a short break every hour, if possible.
- Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music or phone calls.
- Make sure kids do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves & make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions & help with directions, but it's a kid's job to do the learning. Providing 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/her.
- Be a motivator & monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes & tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework & make yourself available for questions & concerns.
- Set a good example. Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
- Praise their work & efforts. Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives. Celebrate successes with a special event (pizza, ice cream, etc.) to reinforce the positive effort
- If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board & may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.