



# HOMework BASICS

Helping your student with homework

# Why do teachers assign homework?

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Homework can help their students do the following:

- ▶ Review and practice what students covered in class;
- ▶ Get ready for the next day's class;
- ▶ Learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer Web sites to find information about a subject;
- ▶ Explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits;
- ▶ Extend learning by applying skills they already have to new situations; and
- ▶ Integrate their learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.



# Why do teachers assign homework?

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Homework can also help students to develop good study habits and positive attitudes. It can also help to do the following:

- ▶ Teach them to work independently; and
- ▶ Encourage self-discipline and responsibility



## How to help: Show that you think homework is important.

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- ▶ Set a regular time for homework. Develop a schedule or have a required amount of time that children must devote to homework or some other learning activity.
- ▶ Have a place for doing homework.
- ▶ Remove distractions.
- ▶ Provide supplies and identify resources. Have available pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper and a dictionary.
- ▶ Set a good example. Show your child that the skills he is learning are an important part of the things he will do as an adult.
- ▶ Be interested and interesting. Make time for your child.



# How to help: Monitor Assignments

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- ▶ Ask about the school's homework policy.
- ▶ Be available.
- ▶ Look over completed assignments.
- ▶ Monitor time spent viewing television and playing video games.



# How to help: Provide Guidance

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- ▶ Help your child get organized.
- ▶ Encourage good study habits.
  - ▶ Help your child manage time to complete assignments.
  - ▶ Help your child to get started when he has to do research reports or other big assignments.
  - ▶ Give practice tests.
  - ▶ Help your child avoid last-minute cramming.
  - ▶ Talk with your child about how to take a test.
- ▶ Talk about assignments.
  - ▶ Do you understand what you're supposed to do?
  - ▶ Do you need help in understanding how to do this assignment?
  - ▶ Do you have everything you need to do the assignment?
  - ▶ Does your answer make sense to you?



# How to help: Provide Guidance

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- ▶ Watch for frustration. If your child shows signs of frustration, let him take a break.
- ▶ Give praise.



# How to help: Talk with teachers to resolve problems

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- ▶ Tell the teacher about your concerns. You may want to contact the teacher if:
  - ▶ Your child refuses to do an assignments, even if you've tried hard to get him to do it;
  - ▶ The instructions are unclear;
  - ▶ You can't seem to help your child get organized to finish the assignments;
  - ▶ You can't provide needed supplies or materials;
  - ▶ Neither you nor your child can understand the purpose of the assignments;
  - ▶ The assignments are too hard or too easy;
  - ▶ The homework is assigned in uneven amounts; or
  - ▶ You child has missed school and needs to make up assignments.



# How to help: Talk with teachers to resolve problems

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- ▶ **Work with the teacher.**
  - ▶ Talk with each of your child's teachers early in the school year.
  - ▶ Contact the teacher as soon as you suspect your child has a homework problem.
  - ▶ Request a meeting with the teacher to discuss homework problems.
  - ▶ Let the teacher know whether your child finds the assignments too hard or too easy.
  - ▶ During your meeting with the teacher, explain what you think is going on.
  - ▶ Work out a way to solve or lessen the problem.
  - ▶ Make sure that communication is clear.
  - ▶ Follow up to make sure that the approach you agreed to is working.

