

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH HOMEWORK



GOALS OF HOMEWORK

- ✘ Practice- requires time and repetition
- ✘ Independence- doing the work without the teacher's guidance
- ✘ Accountability- meeting deadlines
- ✘ Self management and organization- time, resources

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) Model and support organization

- + Family calendar
- + Routine for recording information
- + HW Folder routine
- + Filing system (“save,” and circular!)
- + Materials accessible

(pens, pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler, paper, dictionary, glue stick, colored pencils...)



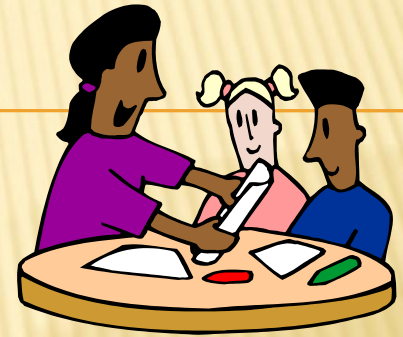
MORE PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

2) Provide structure

- time (avoid over-scheduling, let child have some control over time frame, make sure child has at least 30 minutes before bed to unwind)
- location (comfort, light, no screens!)
- routines for checking, packing up



IN THE BEGINNING...



- Provide a refreshment.
- Go through the HW notebook and folder together.
- Help your child make a plan (what to do first, what materials are needed)
- Read the directions together. Talk about what is being asked. Have your child paraphrase the directions.

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

- Let your child know you are available to help **after** he's tried it on his own
- **Allow/Encourage** your child to complete the task independently
- Remember your long-term goals!

Parents often get far too involved with homework than they should. This can actually hurt children in the long run.

CELEBRATE AND HONOR EFFORT

- Celebrate effort and independence first. (“**You** must feel really good about how hard you worked on this.” **You** must be proud of how you did this on your own!”)
- Review the work. Ask questions, show interest. (How did you solve that problem?” What did you learn from this?)

QUALITY WORK?

➤ Ask questions:

“Is this your best work?”

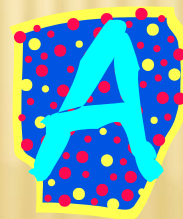
“What can you do to make this better?”
(enhance, improve)

➤ If you are not satisfied with the quality---
communicate that to the teacher. (get
reinforcement!)



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

- Talk about what high quality work looks like: neat, name and date, best spelling, punctuation...
- Does every assignment have to be of the highest quality?



TO CORRECT OR NOT TO CORRECT?

- First comment on something positive
- Be careful about applying adult standards to your child's work.
- Choose one or two “problems” to address.
- Know whether or not your child is “teachable” at that moment

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

Try not to say:

“This is all wrong.”

“You should know this by now!”

“I can’t believe...”

If you feel yourself getting frustrated...

REMEMBER...

Homework should **never** be a battle.

No homework assignment is that important.

Mistakes are opportunities for learning.

Your child is ____ years old.

HOW TO HELP WITH SPELLING

The long-term goal is for your child to be able locate and correct his own errors.

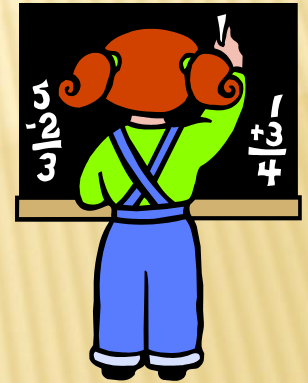
- Point out the line where the error is and encourage your child to find it (if it is within his/her range)
- Teach your child to “try-it-out”
- Use a dictionary (*YOU locate the word*) or word wall (create your own!) for words within his/her range

HOW TO HELP WITH MATH WORD PROBLEMS

- Let your child read the directions himself
- If he doesn't "get it," have him tell you what he thinks he should do
- Fill in the missing pieces
- Model the reading of one chunk of information at a time

MATH WORD PROBLEMS

- Draw a picture of the problem
- Act it out
- Use pennies or other objects (manipulatives)
- Ask, “Does your answer make sense?”



HOW TO HELP WITH COMPUTATION

- Play games to practice the facts (addition “War”)
- Recite the facts in the car
- Watch your child’s method. If he is able to arrive at the correct answer, do not try to teach him “your way.” (yet!)

WAYS TO BUILD YOUR CHILD'S KNOWLEDGE BASE

- Get picture books, videos about the topic your child is studying in school
- Explore a website about a topic being studied
- Visit museums, take educational trips
- Talk to your child about what you hear on the news, or read about in a magazine, book, or newspaper



MOST IMPORTANTLY...

- Send your child to school well-rested, fed, and feeling prepared
- Make quiet reading, study time a part of every day
- Help your child feel accomplished, capable, and secure in himself
- Celebrate and honor effort
- Communicate with your child's teacher