



Supporting with Homework



HOMework

Helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organisation skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging your child to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two!

At our school we ask that children complete homework in reading (3x ten minute sessions a week minimum), spelling, Mathematics and times tables. There are also additional optional tasks available. Homework is always set on a Friday and expected in the following Wednesday.

We appreciate that homework can sometimes be something that is a struggle to complete without conflict at home! Here are some tips to help guide the way:

1. **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 homework and how you should be involved. Keep up to date with modern methods and resist the temptation to teach them 'old school' methods that you may have used — this could confuse them!
2. **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure your child has a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors, etc — if needed.
3. **Schedule a regular study time.** Some children work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
4. **Don't leave it until the last minute.** Encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks over a series of nights.
5. **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about homework can be helpful!)
6. **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a child's job to do the learning.
7. **Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about their work! Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
8. **Set a good example.** Do your children ever see you reading a book? Children are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. **Praise their work and efforts.** Always support and appreciate the effort the children put in. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
10. **If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher.



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