

Teaching Study Skills

Make Homework a Positive Experience

- Provide support and praise for homework completion
- Be available to provide non-critical assistance
- Give children a choice in when, where, and how they complete assignments
- Encourage children to complete homework well enough that they have a sense of pride and control over their learning and levels of competence
- Use homework preferences in setting schedule, like least favorite first, or easiest first, etc
- Encourage study groups with friends, especially with middle and high school students
- Encourage child to have fun such as calling friends, playing computer games, watching their favorite show when homework is finished
- NEVER use homework as a punishment; if frustrated take a break and start fresh
- Be a good listener, encourage child to ask questions about things they don't understand
- Help children study for tests by quizzing them on material



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For More Information:

For additional information on study skills visit the website of the Teachers and Families at www.teachersandfamilies.com

The information obtained for this document was found on the Teachers and Families website.



A Parents Guide:

STUDY SKILLS



***Information for Families
and
Other Supporters***

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Teaching Study Skills:

Children at all grade levels experience frustration and failure in school. Not because they lack the ability but that they lack good study skills. Study skills are important for success in school. Knowing how to study can foster feelings of competence, develop positive attitudes, and help children realize they can control how well they do in school and in life. This also will lay the groundwork for success in work habits as an adult.

Four Basic Principles to Enhance Study Skills:

- Make doing homework a positive experience; associate it with love and affection, freedom, fun, and self-control
- Make homework a high priority
- Use homework to teach organization skills and improve learning skills. Remember that the primary purpose of homework is to improve learning and foster work habits
- Set expectations for homework, then provide and enforce logical, meaningful consequences if those expectations are not met.

The Parent's Role:

- Make it clear that you expect your child to complete all homework assignments accurately and on time.
- Establish a study routine so homework is completed at the same time and in the same place each day. Keep in mind some children concentrate better at different times of the day, an elementary child might do better first thing in the morning if they are tired from the busy day.
- Have supplies and equipment on hand including pencils, pens, binders notebook paper, etc in order to efficiently get assignments completed.
- Demonstrate and enforce that completing homework is a higher priority than other activities.
- Reduce extra curricular activities if they interfere with school and homework requirements.
- Have help available if the child needs extra assistance with assignments. This can be a parent, sibling, neighbor, an on-line homework service, or tutor. Ensure the help is knowledgeable in the subject and is someone who will not become angry or frustrated with the child.
- Establish an expectation that studying for exams is just as important as homework assignments and should take priority over other activities.

Homework Organization Skills:

- Use an assignment book to write all assignments into daily and check them off when completed. It might be helpful to add other commitments to assignment book such as music lessons, sports, jobs, etc so child can balance time.
- Estimate the time it will take to complete all assignments and plan schedule accordingly.
- Learn to plan ahead, start working on major assignments or reviewing for major tests ahead of time.
- Increase concentration time in small increments by taking regular breaks. Such as taking a 10 to 15 minute break for every 45 minutes of study time. Over concentration leads to the loss of ability to concentrate at all.
- Read all directions carefully and circle or highlight the actual assignment instructions to avoid confusion.

There are many more study habits and organizational skills that can be learned. The best way to learn is by doing and adjusting to maximize the best in the child. There is not right and wrong way to study, but putting forth the effort is a good start.

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