

# Homework - Top Tips for Parents



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 their homework expectations and how you should be involved.
2. **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure children have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
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. **Help them make a plan.** Don't let homework build up - keep on top of it and encourage your child to break up home work into manageable chunks. Create a timetable for the week — allow children to have a brain break when needed.
5. **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about their work can be helpful!)
6. **Make sure children 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 assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
8. **Set a good example.** Do your children ever see you making time to balance your budget, read a book, follow a recipe or work out instructions? They are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. **Praise their work and efforts.** Post really good examples of work or achievement certificates on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives and share their successes on Twitter.
10. **If there are any problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher. Agree a time limit or adaptations for your child if necessary with the teacher.
11. **Be interested.** Be excited about the homework and have fun together learning. Don't get stressed or get into a battle. It is the child's responsibility not yours!