



HOMEWORK



Homework is a connection between home and school that can be just as beneficial to parents because reviewing homework together provides an opportunity for adult/child interaction, and can help parents understand what is being taught at school.

The following tips will help homework time go more smoothly so that you and your children can get the most out of it!



At the beginning of every school year, find out what your children should be learning in class. Keep all the information for each class in a separate file or packet.



Mark important dates, such as class tests and deadlines for class projects, on your calendar at home. This will keep both you and your children aware of how the school year is progressing. If the school uses a day planner to list assignments, be sure to check it daily.



Contact your children's teachers to find out if specific materials (other than paper, pen, and pencil) will be needed in order to complete homework or projects. Ask the teachers about any suggestions they may have about teaching techniques that will help you supplement learning at home.



If your children "do not have homework" several days in a row, contact the teachers to verify that there has been no homework assigned.



Establish a **HOMEWORK ZONE** and **TIME**. This special area should be quiet and free from distractions such as the television, the radio, or other children playing. Establish a consistent homework schedule. For example, directly after school is often a good time, but be sure to let your children have a small break before beginning so that they have a few minutes to relax, get a snack, and settle in.



Allow your children to take breaks, especially if they have several different homework assignments. The average attention span, even for adults, is about 20 minutes. Sometimes, just getting up and stretching a bit can help a person refocus.



Remember that everyone faces challenges. Your child may be a math whiz, while struggling with reading. That's okay. While we all want our children to be successful in school, keep in mind that grades are not a reflection of who your child is as a person, or who you are as a parent. Praise your children about their good study habits, persistence, etc. when it comes to these challenging subjects.



Pay attention to what your children like to learn, and how they learn best. Perhaps this same technique can be employed to help with a more challenging subject.



Remember that **YOU** are your children's first and most important teacher and they value your opinion, time, and love.

For the Spanish version of this tip sheet on Homework, please turn the page...

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