

HELP YOUR CHILD *Succeed with* HOMEWORK



As a parent, you know how difficult it can be for your child to complete homework and get it turned in on time. You don't have to be an expert in math or science to help your child be successful. Your caring and attention can go a long way.

A significant body of research has shown that when parents are involved with homework:

- Children earn higher grades and test scores.
- Communication with the school improves.
- Parents are more likely to see problems at an early stage and get needed help.

(Please see reverse side for Homework Tips)



VIRGINIA PIRC PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

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A project of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center



- ✓ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- ✓ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**
Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- ✓ **Help your child with time management.**
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- ✓ **Be positive about homework.**
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- ✓ **When your child does homework, you can do homework.**
Show how skills your child is learning are related to tasks you do as an adult. If your child is doing math, you can balance your checkbook.
- ✓ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
- ✓ **Ask your child's teacher how you can help your child at home.**
Cooperating with the teacher shows your child that the school and home are a team.
- ✓ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**
You can monitor your child's progress, if necessary, but homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.
- ✓ **Homework shouldn't take too long or be too hard.**
If your child is making good effort but cannot complete home work assignments in a reasonable amount of time, you should discuss the issue with your child's teacher.
- ✓ **Stay informed.**
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

Adapted from U.S. Department of Education, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Educational Partnerships and Family Involvement Unit, Homework Tips for Parents, Washington, D.C.

For more information or workshops about helping your child with homework, contact PEATC-VIRGINIA PIRC (see reverse side).