

Homework Hints

Here are some tips for you and some ideas to pass along to help your children make the most of their study time.

- ◆ Provide a place to study that is free of distractions such as television noise and people talking on the phone. (But provide soft music or white noise if it helps your children concentrate.)
- ◆ Instill a positive attitude. Help your children to think, "I can do this."
- ◆ Keep all necessary supplies in one place, such as at a desk or computer station. Having pencils, paper, and calculators all in one spot means your children won't have to search for them, which saves time.
- ◆ Have separate folders for each course to help keep paperwork organized, so it doesn't get lost in the bottom of a backpack.
- ◆ Establish a regularly scheduled time for doing homework. This time probably should not be immediately after school. Young people need a little time to relax.
- ◆ Have your children start with the most difficult assignment first.
- ◆ Let your children take five-minute breaks every so often.
- ◆ Keep the resources they need available. Start a personal reference library for your children, and keep it current. Begin with the basics: dictionary, thesaurus, almanac, desktop encyclopedia, atlas. Add reference books on specific topics related to your children's classes and interests. If you have a computer, consider buying an encyclopedia on CD-ROM or access online encyclopedias and reference sites.
- ◆ Encourage your children to study with other students when appropriate.
- ◆ Remind your children to do as much work as possible during the school day, and if they ride the bus and they feel it's possible, to take advantage of that time to get work done as well.
- ◆ Recommend that your children keep an assignment notebook so they know what homework must be done each day.
- ◆ Suggest your children hang on to past quizzes and tests to prepare for future ones.
- ◆ Encourage your children to make connections between their homework and any cultural or family history.
- ◆ Praise your children for doing their homework.
- ◆ Keep in contact with your children's teachers to be aware of the quality and quantity of work being turned in.

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