

How To Help With Homework

(NAPSA)—Students today may seem to have more homework than ever before, but helping youngsters succeed in school could be easier than many parents realize. While parents who have been out of school for many years may struggle to help with subjects such as advanced math and science or foreign languages, they can still create a positive learning environment that fosters a productive homework experience.

The best way to support homework efforts is to design a framework for students to do their best work. Here are some helpful tips:

1. Assume that your child will have studying to do every night.

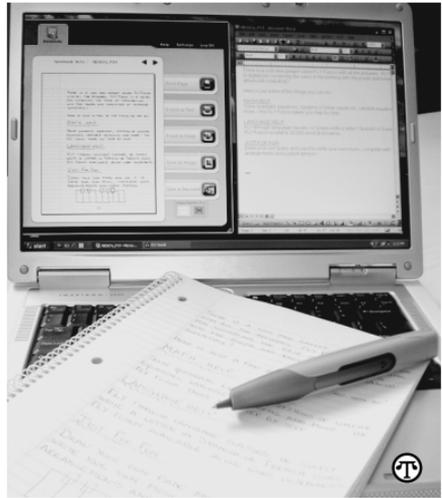
Establish and maintain a regular homework time that works around your child's activity schedule and preferences and is dedicated to studying, even when students do not have homework on a particular night. Set up a comfortable, distraction-free place to work, and encourage your child to write down all assignments daily and use a planner to stay organized.

2. Ensure that your child knows each teacher's homework policy.

Most middle and high school teachers hand out a printed summary of homework expectations or post it on the class Web site. Review the expectations together and encourage your child to ask the teacher questions before leaving the classroom, so the child has the information needed to complete assignments properly and on time.

3. Be available and teach by example.

While you've probably had a long day, it can benefit you both to be near your child during homework time. You may consider setting a good example by using this time to read or pay bills, but remember to check in with your child to offer your support and advice, and be careful to watch for signs of failure or frustration.



New technology has changed the way students learn.

4. Don't hesitate to line up extra support if needed.

If your child is having regular problems completing homework assignments, it may be time to schedule a teacher conference. A teacher may offer small-group study sessions or recommend peer or volunteer tutors from universities or high schools.

You can also take advantage of new technology that has changed the way students learn in and out of the classroom. For example, LeapFrog's new FLY Fusion Pentop Computer can serve as a homework coach by providing interactive, step-by-step help for students in math, writing and foreign languages, and lets students upload their handwritten notes and convert them into text documents.

5. Inspire learning outside the classroom.

Children who see opportunities for learning everywhere are more likely to view schoolwork as an extension of their interest in the world, rather than a burden. If they enjoy sports, encourage them to hunt for articles in the newspaper or magazines about their favorite teams. If they love the arts, share the critics' reviews of movies or plays.

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