



SIX TIPS you can use at home to create a learning environment that will develop & refine learning skills:

- 1) Establish a home study station. It has enough room to do the work, is well lit and has the appropriate electronics.
- 2) Create a learning environment with books, magazines, references, thinking games, and puzzles.
- 3) Let your child teach you. A person doesn't understand something well until they can explain it to others. This also provides for pride.
- 4) Explore reference books with your child. They don't know how to use them. Use the Table of Contents and the Index to find information. Study timelines, charts and graphs.
- 5) Make your child think at a higher level. Ask "what if," "why," and "how?" Do this instead of who, what, and why.
- 6) Discuss problem solving with your child. What do you need to know to set goals, make important decisions, etc.

TOP ADVICE

Your child's school is an important part of your partnership. Make contacts.

Keep in touch with your child's progress.

Know and talk with teachers and coaches.

Remember that teachers want your child to succeed; and coaches can influence them where you can't.

TOP LIES

I have no homework.

I already did that

I turned that in.

The teacher just didn't grade it yet.

The teacher doesn't like me.

There is still plenty of time.

simplifying **HOMEWORK** **For Parents**



**Make the results
Worth the Investment**

Did You Know

⇒ Girls spend more time on homework and extra study than boys.

⇒ US students spend less time on homework than anywhere in Western Europe, and even our top 5% of students invest less time than the average Japanese student.

Also

⇒ Students who come from homes who watch less TV and read more, achieve at higher levels.

⇒ When homework time increases, so do the grades, even for the students who don't learn as easily. Achievement test scores also increase with homework and positive study habits.

Homework doesn't have to be a hassle for you or your student.

When you and your child build a positive homework partnership you'll have a more willing learner, a more successful student and a happier relationship.

Make homework a "given" in your household, and a regular event.

While homework is your student's responsibility, they still benefit from thoughtful guidance.

These Ideas Work !

Work through these practical ideas with your child. Discuss, listen, and exchange ideas, then provide thoughtful parental guidance.

This pamphlet is based on the generally accepted concepts from various works by different authors and educational agencies.

1. Set the Stage

Your child's study space should be away from television, stereo, telephone, & other distractions. A writing surface and good light are necessities. For difficult situations or younger students, a small table near you may be the best place. **Be prepared to give up your own TV time if needed. Sit near-by & read or do quiet work.**

2. Find the best time

Study time should have a **specific start & finish time**. Perhaps include after school or dinner. If your student finishes early, the remaining time can be used to double-check and review. Remember: it's best for your child to take a break from school before beginning homework.

3. Make a Homework List and Calendar

Have your child (1) Make a homework checklist (2) List homework assignments in each class daily as they are made (3) check over the list at the end of the school day to make sure they have all the materials to take home. If needed, children could show teachers their assignment sheets before leaving school. **Record due dates** for major or long-term assignments on a special homework calendar. This brings tasks into focus. For larger projects, have your child **PLAN BACKWARDS**, identifying all steps working backwards from completion of the assignment. If a paper is due on Friday, These might be the steps **planning backwards from Friday**:

- (4) write and review the final draft on Thursday.
- (3) write and revise the first draft Wednesday
- (2) write the outline Tuesday (1) begin reading and note-taking on Monday.

Remind your child it's always wise to build in extra time for unexpected events or problems.

4. Be prepared

Help your student **gather the materials** needed to complete assignments. Pencils & sharpener, eraser and paper are needed. Perhaps a ruler, dictionary, thesaurus, graph paper, calculator or other items are needed.

5 Study rhythms

Tackling the most difficult assignments when you are most alert is a good idea for students of all ages. Save easier tasks for other times. Use an easier assignment as a break from something more difficult. Doing **math first** is recommended by some experts. Do rough drafts of writing assignments early and put them aside for later review and revision. Suggest your child schedule several smaller segments of time for memorization. It is easier to memorize in short stretches rather than all at once!

6. If your child gets stuck

Ask some of these questions ...

- Did you ask your teacher for help?
- Have you read and followed directions carefully?
- Do directions make sense after being read out loud ?
- Are you taking short cuts that are confusing you?
- Are you trying to do too much in your head?
- Have you checked for careless mistakes?

- Did you copy the numbers & words correctly?
- Have you tried a similar, but easier problem?
- Are you using your book properly?
- Have you tried making a picture, table, graph, or diagram to represent the known facts and relationships?
- Have you checked the glossaries, the table of contents or the indexes for help?

If none of these questions lead you out of difficulty, then suggest doing other homework assignments for a while. Make use of school tutorial hours and check with the teacher. Remember **teachers want your child to succeed.**

7. Asking the Parent for Help

Let your child know **it's OK to ask you** for help. Tell them, "read the directions and try to figure them out. But if you can't, ask me." Let your child know that when an extra drill is needed you'll be happy to help.

8. "Give Me a break!"

Schedule one or more short breaks in your child's study time. Get up and stretch, walk the dogs, play your saxophone, or doing something else of interest is a good way to relieve mental tension.

9. Backpack at bedtime

Help your child create a method for getting completed assignments to school on time. A good slogan is "**homework goes in the backpack at bedtime.**"

Courtesy of Chuck Hollocker