



HELP WITH HOMEWORK.

Teachers assign homework for a variety of reasons: to help students review what has been learned; to help them prepare for the next class session; to extend student exploration of topics more fully than class time permits; or to help students gain skill in self-directed learning and using resources such as libraries and reference materials.

Parents can help children get the most out of homework by:

- Encouraging them to take notes about homework assignments when they are given.
- Limiting after-school activities to allow time for homework and family activities.
- Planning a homework schedule with each child that allows some free time when assignments are completed.
- Monitoring television viewing and other potential distractions.
- Doing some problems or questions together with a child when he or she asks for help.
- Staying nearby-reading, writing, studying or catching up on paperwork.
- Checking completed assignments, and reviewing homework that has been marked and returned.

Here are some other ideas to encourage your child to do his/her best:

- Wrong answers can help!
- Be patient; incorrect answers tell you that you need to look further, ask questions, and figure out what you do not understand.
- Sometimes a wrong answer is the result of misunderstanding the question.
- Ask your child to explain how they solved a problem; responses may clarify whether help is needed with a procedure, the "facts" are wrong, or a crucial concept is not understood.
- You may learn something that the teacher would find helpful. A short note or telephone call will alert the teacher to possible ways of helping your child.
- Help your children become risk takers. Help them examine wrong answers, and assure them that right answers come with understanding.
- Problems can be solved in different ways. Though a problem may have only one correct solution, there are often many ways to get the right answer.
- Doing math in your head is important. Increased use of calculators and computers makes it increasingly important that people be able to determine whether an answer is reasonable.

<http://www.ericdigests.org/2000-2/math.htm>