

Give your elementary schooler the right kind of homework help

Homework is a vital link between home and school. Teachers give homework to help children understand and review classwork. Parents find out what their child is studying by being involved in homework. But being involved does not mean doing your child's homework for her. That gives the teacher a false reading of your child's progress. Plus, it prevents your child from building confidence in her ability to do the work herself.

Here are better ways to help your child do well with homework:

- Make sure she understands assignments. Look over the instructions together. Then have her explain the assignment to you in her own words. Ask questions to check understanding.
- Review homework every day. Even if you're not present when your child does her homework, always ask to see it. Your interest sends the message that homework is important.
- Don't let your child become too frustrated. Encourage her to take a break if you notice she's struggling. Then help her with what is frustrating her.
- Ask your child to show you homework after it has been corrected at school. Praise her for correct work. Then notice where she's having problems and focus your help on those areas.

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