

# **Checklist for Helping Your Child with Their Homework**

## **1. Show that you think education and homework are important!**

- Do you set a regular time every day for homework?
- Does your child have the paper, books, pencils, and other things needed to do assignments?
- Does your child have a well-lit, fairly quiet place to study?
- Do you set a good example by showing your child that the skills he is learning are an important part of the things he will do as an adult?

## **2. Monitor Assignments**

- Do you know what your child's homework assignments are? How long they should take? How the teacher wants you to be involved in them?
- Do you see that your child starts and completes assignments?
- Do you read the teacher's comments on assignments that are returned?
- Is TV viewing or video game playing cutting into your child's homework time? Are you limiting the time for TV viewing and video game playing?

## **3. Provide Guidance**

- Do you help your child to get organized? Does your child need a schedule or assignment book? A book bag or backpack and a folder for papers?
- Do you encourage your child to develop good study habits (examples: scheduling enough time for big assignments, making up work, correcting wrong answers, etc.)?
- Do you talk with your child about homework assignments? Does she understand them?

## **4. Talk with the teachers to resolve problems.**

- Do you meet with the teacher early in the year *before* any problems arise?
- If a problem comes up, do you meet with the teacher?
- Do you cooperate with the teacher to work out a plan and a schedule to solve homework problems?
- Do you follow up with the teacher and with your child to make sure the plan is working?

## **What are the benefits?**

**Homework usually falls into one of three categories: practice, preparation, or extension. The purpose usually varies by grade. Individualized assignments that tap into students' existing skills or interests can be motivating. At the elementary school level, homework can help students develop study skills and habits and can keep families informed about their child's learning. At the secondary school level, student homework is associated with greater academic achievement. (Review of Educational Research, 2006)**

## **Does Homework Help Children Learn?**

**Homework helps your child do better in school when the assignments are meaningful, are completed successfully and are returned to her\* with constructive comments from the teacher. An assignment should have a specific purpose, come with clear instructions, be fairly well matched to a child's abilities and help to develop a child's knowledge and skills.**

**In the early grades, homework can help children to develop the good study habits and positive attitudes described earlier. From third through sixth grades, small amounts of homework, gradually increased each year, may support improved school achievement. In seventh grade and beyond, students who complete more homework score better on standardized tests and earn better grades, on the average, than do students who do less homework. The difference in test scores and grades between students who do more homework and those who do less increases as students move up through the grades.**

## **What's the Right Amount of Homework?**

**The right amount of homework depends on the age and skills of the child. National organizations of parents and teachers suggest that children in kindergarten through second grade can benefit from 10 to 20 minutes of homework each school day. In third through sixth grades, children can benefit from 30 to 60 minutes a school day. In seventh through ninth grades, students can benefit from spending more time on homework and the amount may vary from night to night.**

**Amounts that vary from these guidelines are fine for some children and in some situations. For example, because reading at home is especially important for children, reading assignments might push the time on homework a bit beyond the amounts suggested here.**



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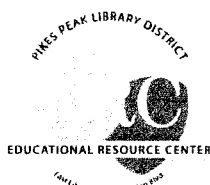
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Check the program calendar regarding  
the following helpful programs

**AfterMath:** Experienced math tutors  
can help you improve your grades and  
take the stress out of math.

**Paws to Read:** Practice reading with a  
furry friend! Specially trained dogs will  
be available to listen to you read.

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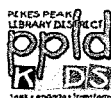


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