

Homework Suggestions for Families

- With your child, choose a comfortable, pleasant location where he/she can consistently do homework. Some children need a location that is relatively free from distractions while others need a quiet place that is still close enough to others that they don't feel isolated.
- Try to have a set time when homework will be worked on. It helps if you can establish a time where every family member works on homework or some kind of learning project together. If a family member (including the adults) doesn't have any homework to do, encourage that person to read for fun!
- Praise/reward your child for starting his/her homework on time and without a reminder.
- Homework should not be an all evening ordeal. The following is a guide to the amount of time students should normally be spending on homework by grade level. The amount of time your child should spend on homework will depend on his/her unique abilities and needs.

Kindergarten - 2nd grade	about 15 minutes
3rd - 5th grade	about 30-45 minutes
6th - 8th grade	about 1 hour
9th - 12th grade	about 1-2 hours (depending on classes and study hall time)

If you feel that your child is having to spend too much time on homework or if the homework itself is becoming a major disruption in your home, talk with his/her teacher and look at ways that the length or type of assignment could be adjusted. Keep in mind that, for some students given their current academic skills and behaviors, homework may not be appropriate at this time. This can be addressed in the IEP. Again, talk with school officials and give them your ideas.

- Arrange with the teacher ahead of time what you should do if, on a particular night the homework could not be done due to an emergency, a scheduling problem or confusion over instructions.
- Talk with your child's teacher(s) about how you would like homework related information delivered to you. Will your child write his/her assignments in a notebook and bring them home? Will the teacher contact you directly (by e-mail or phone) when your child has homework? How often do you and the teacher(s) need to communicate about homework? How you answer these question will depend on the needs of you child. The important thing to remember is to come up with a homework plan that is acceptable to both you and the school.
- Check to see if your child's homework is done. Don't just ask, actually look at it. This shows your child that you are really interested in what he/she is doing and that you think homework is important enough for you to take the time stop and check it.
- Reward your child with praise (and activities or other things) for doing homework. Let them see that you value what they're doing.
- If you're working with you child on an assignment and he/she informs you that "That's not how the teacher said to do it!", either allow the child to finish the assignment the way he/she thinks it's to be done or put it away (being sure to let the teacher know why your child wasn't able to finish it). As soon as you can, check with the teacher to see what the requirements or procedures actually are.