

Help With Homework

“Help!” is exactly what I want to shout during those frustrating evenings packed with homework. Homework is a fact of life though, and for parents it’s important for us to be involved in our child’s education. Certainly one way to do that is to help our children with their homework. This seems easier said than done; especially when our children would rather play with friends, watch television, or tune in to the computer, IPOD, or a video game. However, helping our children with homework can teach them a critical lesson – that learning is valuable.

What to Do – What’s the best way to help your child with his/her assignments? You can encourage good study habits and model a positive attitude toward learning and problem solving.

- Set a schedule: Help your child choose a regular homework time. Choose a time when he/she is most alert and provide a quiet spot, away from distractions with plenty of light and space.
- Keep track of homework – Along with school supplies, you should purchase an assignment notebook and a calendar to keep up with long-term assignments like science projects or book reports. Teach your child to divide up the workload and manage time wisely. Ask to see the assignment notebook on a daily basis.
- Lend a hand: Help your child study by quizzing him/her on the subject. Review math problems and help brainstorm ways to solve them (especially story problems). For larger projects, suggest use of study resources, the library, or the Internet (with supervision).

Make sure you are not doing the homework for your child. By encouraging him/her to seek answers for him/herself, you help develop problem-solving skills and independent work habits.

- Know your child’s learning style: Not all children learn the same way. Some learn from reading – most learn visually and by doing.
- Talk to teachers: Open, positive communication is critical. Be supportive.
- Inspire a love of learning: Read aloud to your child, visit the library, museums, Roper Mountain Science Center, historical sites, and/or State Parks.

Take time to visit www.parentsmart.com. It is a fantastic web-site for parents. The tips listed above can be found on this site.

Talk with your children and spend quality time with them on a daily basis. Your child is your greatest investment.