

PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

HELP YOUR CHILD *Succeed with* HOMEWORK



As a parent, you know that homework can sometimes pose real difficulties for your children. But you don't have to be an expert in math or science to help your child be successful with homework. Your caring and attention can go a long way.

By getting involved with your child's homework, communication between you and the school improves. You learn more about what is expected of your child in school. And you get a firsthand idea of what students are learning and how well your child is doing.

Research shows that if a child is having difficulty with homework, parents should pay close attention. Talk to your child's teachers to find out what you can do to help.

(Please see reverse side for Homework Tips)



NH STATE PIRC PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

www.nhpirc.org

Toll-free: (800) 947-7005 or Helpline (866) NH-PIRC

A project of the Parent Information Center



- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**
Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- Help your child with time management.**
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- Be positive about homework.**
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- When your child does homework, you can do homework.**
Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, you can balance your checkbook.
- When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
- When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, find out more about what you can do.**
Cooperating with the teacher shows your child that the school and home are a team.
- If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**
Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.
- Stay informed.**
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
- Homework shouldn't take too long or be too hard.**
If your child is making good effort but cannot complete homework assignments in a reasonable amount of time, you should discuss the issue with your child's teacher.

Adapted from U.S. Department of Education, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Educational Partnerships and Family Involvement Unit, Homework Tips for Parents, Washington, D.C., 2003

For more information or workshops about helping your child with homework, contact NH STATE PIRC (see reverse side).