
I N S I G H T S

FOR FAMILIES



Homework help for students and parents



**January
2014**

INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES is provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education. Insights is produced by Marcia Latta, communications consultant.

Homework is an important part of school. There has been some debate among parents and educators about the amount and value of homework, but most students can expect to bring school work home.

Homework can help students master academics they learned in the classroom and build good study habits they will need in college and work habits they will use in life.

Focusing on the work and completing assignments on time are skills that don't come naturally to most students. Parents can help their children build good study habits with these tips from educational experts.

Tips for parents

KidSource Online by the U.S. Department of Education: Homework Helper

(www.kidsource.com/education/homework.calendar.html)

The U.S. Department of Education defines three types of homework: practice, preparation and extension. Practice reinforces new skills, preparation help students get ready for classroom exercises, and extension assignments are longer term projects that parallel classroom work.

The recommendations for homework differ by grade level. As students progress through school, they can expect to spend more time on homework in more subject areas.

General guidelines recommend the following homework limits by grade level:

- Kindergarten through third grade: no more than 20 minutes per day
- Fourth through sixth grade: 20-40 minutes per day
- Seventh through twelfth grade: amounts vary depending on the number and difficulty of subjects. College preparation courses will require more homework time.

Parents can help students with homework by encouraging them and helping them set up a supportive environment:

- Provide a good study space.
- Limit after-school activities.
- Monitor and limit television viewing.
- Plan a homework schedule.
- Review assignments by students in lower grade levels.

Tips for students

BigFuture.com by the College Board: Take Control of Homework

(<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/take-control-of-homework>)

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- Do homework efficiently and effectively
Be sure you have everything you need before you start.
Find a quiet place at home, school or your local library
- Know where to begin
Make a list of assignments and deadlines. Start with difficult work first to get them out of the way and achieve a sense of accomplishments.
- Study at the same time daily
If your work is routine, you won't start with a sense of dread, and you will improve your productivity.
- Find the methods that work best for you
Organize your information efficiently for you. If you work better with lists, charts or outlines, set up your work accordingly. You may need to try different methods until you find the one that is most productive.
- Communicate
Be sure to talk to teachers if you have questions or don't understand the work. Homework that is challenging is fine; homework that is frustrating or too hard means you don't understand the material.

Helpful apps

MyHomework (myhomeworkapp.com): This app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle or as a web-based tool. It is a student planner that helps track homework assignments, set reminders or follow class schedules.

StudyBlue (www.studyblue.com). This app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android and the web. It provides study materials, allows students to make flashcards and track progress through study scores. You can collaborate with classmates and allow teachers to review your progress.

SchoolFuel (www.schoolfuelapps.com): This app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android and the web. It allows teachers to connect with students in and out of class. It provides resources libraries aligned to Common Core Standards.

Evernote (www.evernote.com)

Springpad (www.springpad.com)

Both of these apps are available for iPhone, iPad, Android and the web. They allow you to save and share notes, ideas, checklists, photos, URLs, etc. Data is searchable and available on your devices.

Educational websites

The U.S. Department of Education lists a whole page of helpful websites for students and parents. Find resources for research papers, writing, math, study tips, and more.
www.kidsource.com/kidsource/monthly/mon.homework.web.html