

[healthy children : Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/)

**Healthy Homework Habits!**

**General Tips for Success:**

* Designate a regular location and time for homework
  + Does not need to be a specific time, may just be “after dinner”
  + Location should be well lit and quiet
  + Keep your child’s materials nearby (paper, pencil, dictionary, etc.)
* Some children prefer to have a parent sit with them while doing homework
  + Bring your own paperwork or reading material
  + For long assignments (paper, project), help your child organize how much work will have to be done daily in order to complete the assignment on time
  + But remember; do not do the homework for your child!
* It is best if homework stays between the child and their teacher
  + Homework is your child’s responsibility, not yours
  + If your child routinely requires your active participation to get homework done, talk to their teacher
* Keep in touch with your child’s teacher regarding homework assignments
  + If your child is having ongoing problems or if they breeze right through their homework, their teacher should be aware
* Consider reading with your child every night, especially on nights where there is no homework
* Keep in mind that your child has already had a lengthy day of learning at school, make time for free time – play activities, sports, music, etc.

**Be sure to praise your child for their efforts and success in doing their homework well!**

**Specific Suggestions on How to Approach Different Assignments:**

* **Reading Assignments**
  + Divide chapters into small units or use the author’s headings as a guide
  + Find the topic sentence/main idea for each paragraph and underline it or write it down
  + Write a section-by-section outline of the reading assignment
    - Copy or paraphrase the main points
    - Leave some room to write in notes from class discussions
* **Writing (composition)**
  + Begin by recognizing that the first draft will not be the last, and that rewriting will produce better work!
  + Make a list of as many ideas as possible without worrying about whether they are good or correct
  + Organize these “brainstorm” ideas into clusters that seem reasonable, and then arrange the clusters into logical sequence
  + Write down thoughts as to why these clusters were made and why the order makes sense
  + Use this work as an outline and write a first draft
    - At this stage, do not worry about spelling or punctuation
  + Revise the first draft, paying attention to detail
    - Does it make sense and meet the purpose of the assignment?
    - Does each paragraph have a topic sentence and are the other sentences logically related?
    - Does each sentence express a complete thought?
    - Are capitalization and punctuation correct?
    - Was the best word chosen? Is it spelled correctly?
    - Is the paper easy to read?
    - Does it follow the format and style the teacher expects?
* **Math**
  + Work towards mastering the basic facts and operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) until they become automatic
    - Do this in small doses, and limit the number of facts to three to five each session
    - Use writing, flash cards, and oral quizzes
  + Be sure the basic concepts of computation are well understood
    - Do computation homework slowly and check the results
    - Use money examples when learning decimals
    - For fractions, use visual or concrete aids rather than oral explanations

* **Studying for Tests**
  1. Gather together homework assignments, class notes, outlines, quizzes, and handouts, and arrange them chronologically (by date)
  2. Four days before the test, read the information through in a general way
  3. Three days before the test, look at major titles of sections in notes and books
  4. Two days before the test, review the titles of sections and read the information and organize it into related clusters
  5. The night before the test, repeat the process of the night before and recite as much as you can from memory