

# Homework Checklist

By Laura Cooper Peterson

- Create the Environment
  - Make sure children have a fairly quiet place to study with lots of light.
  - Put together a homework kit.
  - Check if children have access to the necessary resources.
  - Set a regular time every day for homework.
  - Find appropriate background music.
  - Show support by staying nearby, whenever possible.
  - Use positive reinforcement, when appropriate.
  - Check if children have time to unwind after school.
  - Check if children have a homework "buddy".
  - Offer a nutritious snack to children before homework is started.
  - Encourage children to take short breaks while doing homework.
  - Ask children not to distract each other while they are doing homework.
  - Show children that homework is important.
- Resolve Problems
  - Stay in touch with children teachers.
  - Contact the teacher early in the year before any problems arise.
  - Cooperate with the teacher to work out a plan and a schedule to resolve homework problems.
  - Follow up with teachers and with children to make sure the plans are working.
- Provide Guidance
  - Draw the line between providing guidance and doing the homework for your children.
  - Understand and respect your children's styles of learning.
  - Check if children work better alone or with someone else.
  - Encourage your children to develop good study habits.
  - Help your children to get organized.
  - Talk with your children about homework assignments.
  - Make sure children understand homework assignments.
  - Praise your children when it is appropriate.

- Make sure you know the school's homework policy.
- Make sure assignments are started and completed.
- Read the teacher's comments on assignments that are returned.