

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.