

# Homework: It can help!

## Everyone remembers homework!



that teaches a child to organize time, work independently, use study skills and develop self-discipline.

- Homework fosters good study habits and gives the child with learning problems the extra time – and the extra opportunity to improve skills.

### As an opportunity...

Some of us remember it as an interesting, challenging opportunity to practice what we've learned in the classroom; to review, expand and explore new ideas; to complete projects without the time restrictions of the school day.

### As a punishment...

On the other hand, others of us viewed homework as nothing more than punishment – an imposition, wasting precious play time.



### As a help.

Parents, too, are of different minds concerning homework. While some parents feel it presents the perfect chance for

them to monitor their child's progress, others resent its interfering with family activities. It seems, however, that homework is here to stay. And that's good because homework is a valuable part of our children's education.

- Teachers realize that homework can be the link between school and home that lets you get involved with your child's education. Your child will work better if you're interested, too.

## Help your children do their homework properly

### Provide a study area

Homework can be done in a child's room or at the kitchen table; the specific room makes little difference. The important elements are adequate lighting, comfortable seating, sufficient work surface, good ventilation, and space to store study materials. Noises and distractions such as music and TV should be shut out.

Reference materials such as a dictionary, an atlas, and an encyclopedia should be available.



### Plan a specific time

Setting aside the same time each day develops the discipline most children need. Establishing rules against using the phone and watching TV means better concentration.

### Think of homework as "helpwork"

Homework's the perfect opportunity to review and practice with your child what's learned in

## Why do teachers give homework?

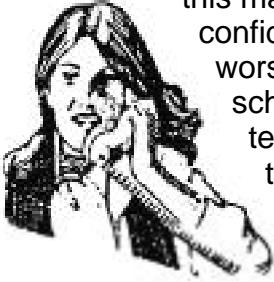
- Teachers feel homework extends learning experiences beyond the classroom and it reinforces learning by giving children a chance to practice without the pressure of time. Homework has value as a process: one



the classroom. Give the encouragement and assistance your child needs, but don't do the homework for your child. See that it's completed.

### Homework difficulty? Call the teacher!

Teachers can most likely clarify or solve the problem. Do not complain to your children; this may cause a loss of confidence in the teacher or worse, loss of interest in school. Check with the teacher first. If you feel there's just too much homework too often, talk it over with the teacher, too. Your attitude towards homework, teachers and school can influence your child's success.



### Watch for signs that help is needed

Check your children's study habits. Do they have difficulty completing homework? Move their lips when reading? Write slowly, unclearly? Poor study skills are signs that children may have problems that reduce their ability to complete homework and keep up with the class. Try to pinpoint personal problems that might be affecting their ability to concentrate.

### Look for homework every day

When your children don't bring work home, find out if they're completing it in school or forgetting to bring it home. If you find they actually have little or no homework to do – relax. Some teachers do give less. Just make sure that whatever's assigned is understood and completed.

## Homework hints

### Show your interest by helping with homework!



- Help with memory work. Drill or review by calling out words or questions, by listening to recitations.
- Help your children learn where to find information – books, newspapers, magazines. A trip to the library is a must.
- Offer ideas for projects related to school studies. Encourage your children to talk their ideas over with you.
- Review homework that's been completed. Discuss it; encourage your child to discuss it.
- Praise the things your child does well. Don't dwell on shortcomings.
- Let your child take a homework break. A few minutes can often refresh a busy mind.
- Be persistent in your daily attention to your child's schoolwork.

Your caring makes a teacher's caring mean so much more. Caring is more than a matter of love and dedication. Your children's teachers have plenty of both. But a teacher's caring alone is not enough. Your children should know you care, too.

Be involved, interested and connected! Then and only then can your children get the most out of the caring their teachers give them.

**So – for the sake of your child's success in school – get involved in homework**



*Teachers and parents:  
The more we work together,  
The more we help our children!*

For more information, visit the "Parenting" page of the JCEA website: [www.jcea-cea.org](http://www.jcea-cea.org).