

## **Homework Tips**

**(Helping your child learn)**

Homework time can be very stressful for both children and parents. These tips can help you get started or make changes in your approach to daily homework.

### **General Homework Tips**

- Talk to your child's teacher about their work. Ask what you can do to help your child.
- Talk to your child's teacher so you will know how much homework will be given and how often. Decide together if the amount and type of homework is right for your child. Ask what you can do at home to reinforce learning.
- Encourage your child to use a daily assignment book.
- Be positive about homework.
- Establish a set time each day for doing homework.
- Learning takes place in a calm environment. Be patient with your child.
- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.
- Make sure your child has the right supplies such as paper, pencils, and a dictionary.
- Have your child start any "hard homework" first – before they get tired.
- Set a good example during homework time. If your child is reading, you read; if your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.
- If your child asks, help them figure out the answer. Be careful not to do the work for your child.
- Be clear with your child that the homework belongs to them.
- Watch your child for signs of frustration – schedule short break times.
- Follow your child's progress. Check assignments daily.
- Tell your child that you think school is important. Reinforce that homework is practice.
- Reward progress in homework – celebrate your child's successes.
- Be sure to give specific praise to your child. You may use one of the following phrases that fits your child's efforts:
  - "You are a hard worker"
  - "You did that very well"
  - "This is hard"
  - "Good for you, that made sense"
  - "You figured that out all by yourself"
  - "You are really on your way"
- If your child needs more help, ask the teacher if your child can get extra help outside of class.
- If your child is still having problems, the school principal may be able to find help.

## Reading homework tips

- Before starting, choose a quiet place.
- As your child reads, point out spelling and sound patterns, such as cat, pat, hat.
- When your child gets stuck on a word, **wait** – give your child some time to figure it out. If they are still having trouble with the word help them sound it out.
- If your child cannot figure out a word, tell them. It may be a word they do not know or coach them by having them use part of the word they know to figure it out.
- After problem solving through a word, have your child go back and re-read to make sure it makes sense, and to help your child think about the meaning of the story.
- If your child makes a mistake and continues reading, **wait** – let your child discover the error.
  - If they go back and fix it, praise them by saying, “good for you, that made sense.”
  - If they keep going, wait until the end of the page or paragraph. Say, “something was not right there, try that again.” This allows your child to problem solve.
- What your child reads out loud to you could be at a level below what they read in class. This reinforces their reading skills. If the reading material seems too difficult, talk to your child’s teacher.
- When your child is reading, have them pause occasionally. Ask questions about what is happening in the story. This helps your child understand what they are reading.
- Before getting to the end of the story, ask your child what they think will happen next.
- When your child is done ask them to tell you the story in their own words.
- Have your child try to read billboards, menus and food labels. This can help reinforce the need for reading skills.
- Whenever you can, read for fun. If possible, you and your child can take turns reading aloud every night.

## Math homework tips

- Begin each math homework time by asking your child what they are supposed to do. If your child can explain the homework assignment, you will have an idea if they understand it.
- Tell your child if you do not understand a math problem. Use your child’s teacher as a resource for additional help.
- Ask the teacher if your child can use a calculator to check the finished work.
- Show your child how math is used in every day life, such as counting out forks, pouring from a gallon of milk or telling the time a favorite TV program begins.
- Talk to your child when driving in the car. Show them how numbers tell us how fast we are driving, how far we have gone and how long it will take to get home.
- Ask the teacher what math skills will be taught during the semester and what you can do to help your child.

## Where else can I get information?

### Books

- Beginning to Read: Thinking and Learning About Print  
Marilyn Jager Adams, PhD
- Ending the Homework Hassle  
John Rosemound

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**Books (cont)**

- Family Math  
Jean Kerr Stenmark, Virginia Thompson & Ruth Cossey
- Games for Reading: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Read  
Peggy Kaye
- Homework Without Tears: A Parent's Guide for Motivating Children to Do Homework  
Lee Canter
- How to Reach & Teach Children and Teens With Dyslexia  
Cynthia M. Stowe, M. Ed.
- Keeping a Head in School  
Mel Levine
- Multicultural Math: Hands-On Math Activities from Around the World  
Claudia Zaslavsky
- Overcoming Dyslexia  
Sally Shaywitz, M.D.
- Parenting a Struggling Reader  
Susan L. Hall & Louisa Cook Moats
- Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read  
Bernice E. Cullinan
- Smart Kids with School Problems: Things to Know and Ways to Help  
Priscilla L. Vail
- Straight Talk About Reading  
Susan L. Hall & Louisa Cook Moats
- Teach Your Child Math  
Arthur Benjamin & Michael Brant Shermer
- Your Struggling Child  
Robert F. Newby, PhD.

**Websites**

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD)  
1920 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
Phone: 703-620-3660  
<http://www.cec.sped.org>

Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD)  
P.O. Box 40303  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
<http://www.cldinternational.org>

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) website  
U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs  
<http://www.ed.gov>

International Dyslexia Association (IDA)  
8600 LaSalle Road  
Chester Building, Suite 382  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
Phone: 410-296-0232  
<http://www.interdys.org>

## Websites (cont)

Learning Disabilities Association of America  
4156 Library Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
Phone: 412-341-1515  
<http://www.ldanatl.org>

LD Online  
LD Online is a service of the Learning Project at WETA, Washington, DC, in association with the Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities  
<http://www.ldonline.org>

Legal Rights Website  
<http://wrightslaw.com>

National Center for Learning Disabilities  
381 Park Avenue South, Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10016  
Phone: 888-5757373  
<http://www.nclld.org>

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)  
P.O. Box 1492  
Washington, D.C.  
Phone: 800-695-0285  
<http://www.nichcy.org>

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
Teaching Children to Read  
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/nrp/smallbook.cfm>

Schwab Foundation for Learning  
1650 South Amphlett Boulevard, Suite 300  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone: 800-230-0988  
<http://www.schwablearning.org>

The Southeast Regional Center for CYSHCN at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
9000 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
Phone: 414-266-6333  
[www.specialneedsfamilycenter.org](http://www.specialneedsfamilycenter.org)

US Department of Education  
Helping Your Child Learn Math  
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html>

U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/edo>

WI FACETS  
2714 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Phone: 414-374-4645  
[www.wifacets.org/index.html](http://www.wifacets.org/index.html)

**This information was adapted from materials available through the Wisconsin Seizure Control Network.**

**This teaching sheet is meant to provide you with additional information about your child's care.  
Diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up should be provided by your health care professional.**