

Homework Tips for Children with Learning Problems

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 about homework. Know how much 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.
- Have your child use a daily assignment book.
- Be positive about homework.
- Have a set time each day for doing homework.
- Be patient with your child. Learning takes place in a calm environment.
- 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. You may need to schedule short breaks.
- 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. Use one of these phrases that fits your child's efforts:
 - "You are a hard worker" or "You did that very well"
 - "This is hard"
 - "Good for you, that made sense" or "You figured that out all by yourself"
 - "You are really on your way"
- If needed, 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. Help them sound out the word if needed.

- If your child cannot figure out a word, tell them. It may be a word they do not know. You can coach them by having them use part of the word they know to figure it out.
- After helping with a word, have your child go back and re-read to make sure it makes sense. This may help your child think about the meaning of the story.
- If your child makes a mistake and keeps 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 lets your child problem solve.
- What your child reads out loud to you can be at a level below what they read in class. This will reinforce their reading skills. If the reading material seems too hard, talk to your child’s teacher.
- When your child is reading, have them pause once in a while. 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.
- Read for fun. If possible, you and your child can take turns reading out loud every night.



Math homework tips

- Start 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 more help.
- Ask the teacher if your child can use a calculator to check the finished work.
- Show your child how math is used in everyday 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.

Other teaching sheets that may be helpful

- #3073 Learning Problems and Learning Disabilities
- #3073.02 Resources for Children with Learning Problems

ALERT: Call your child’s doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any concerns or if your child has special health care needs not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.