

Don't push your child for early achievement, and don't compare one child's progress with someone else's. Children progress at different rates, and learning plateaus are common in the elementary school years.



Some testing in schools is controversial. Increased testing is being required in many schools by governmental agencies and school boards. And many parents and other adults are using the results of these tests in ways that were not intended. This results in growing pressure on parents, students, teachers, and communities to raise test scores. Children pick up on this pressure and can become so stressed that their grades suffer. Children respond to stress differently, so work with your child and his teacher if homework and testing seem too demanding.

Essentially, homework is a contract between the teacher and his students. It is the child's job, not the parents'. Does that mean you don't help at all? Of course not. The question isn't *if*, but *how*. Instead of acting like a police officer, be a resource person to whom the child may turn with questions or problems.

Putting Knowledge to Work



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You'll find a friendly, well-trained staff ready to help you with information, advice, and free publications covering agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H and youth development.

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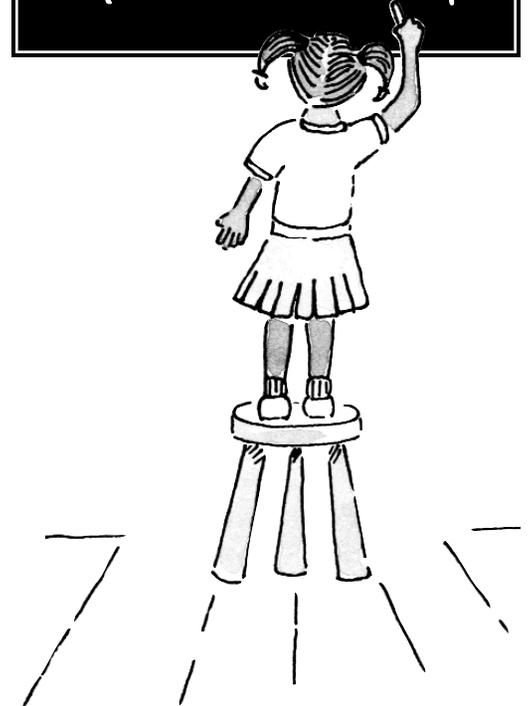
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GALE A. BUCHANAN, DEAN & DIRECTOR

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Helpful Homework Hints



The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Family and Consumer Sciences
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Helpful Homework Hints

Research shows that doing homework is a sure-fire way to promote academic success. Parents can help by being interested and involved and by providing structure and guidance.

The amount of homework your child does will depend on his age, the teacher, and the philosophy of the school. The where, when, and how of homework are details you and your child need to work out together. Below are some suggestions about how you might help your child with his homework.

Homework! Where?

- Set a regular time and place for homework. Because many children love to sign contracts, you could create one that sets study time, place, and rules.
- Help your child think of the study area as her “office,” with office supplies and reference books (such as a dictionary).

Homework! When?

- Lay out all the homework rules at the beginning of the school year. This helps your child adjust to a schedule.
- Consider letting the child have a snack break or play for a while after school and study in the early evening.
- Build in study breaks if your child’s attention span isn’t long enough to complete his work at one sitting.

- Schedule study time when an adult will be available to help. Plan a family study time in which adults read or do some quiet activity while the children study.
- Let children know that homework is a priority.



Homework! How much?

- Require that children use the full time for studying or reading. This will keep them from rushing through work in order to play.
- There is no set rule about homework amounts. But some educators suggest that daily study time should be at least ten times a child’s grade level, measured in minutes. So while a first grader would have to study for 10 minutes (1 x 10), a sixth-grader would have to study for an hour (6 x 10).

Homework gives you the chance to teach your child skills in managing time and learning discipline. These skills will help her become a successful adult.

Some parents worry that their children are being assigned too much homework by teachers. In some cases, homework takes virtually

all of the child’s evenings and some weekends, too! Talk with your child’s teacher if the amount of homework seems unreasonable.

Homework! How can you help?

- Ask your child if she wants help. Don’t assume that she always needs your help, but don’t assume that she never needs it, either.
- Check your child’s work, but resist the temptation to actually do the work. Proofread or correct, but let your child earn her own grades.
- Keep a list of phone numbers of your child’s classmates in case she forgets to write down an assignment.
- Learn to ask leading questions when your child is stuck—“Why?” “What do you think?”
- Help a shy, soft-spoken child prepare for reading aloud or presenting in class by providing lots of practice. Have him read to you until he is comfortable. Sit farther apart each time so he will practice raising his voice.
- Don’t allow homework to become a battle. If your child is really having problems, talk to the teacher about some solutions.

Test coming up?

- Space studying over days or weeks. Don’t allow your child to cram for a test.
- Be sure your child has a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast every day, but especially before the test.
- Tell your child to make “educated guesses” on questions he isn’t sure of.