

## Helping With Homework

Helping your child with homework will help their learning at school. You will benefit, too. You'll get to know your child's particular strengths and difficulties and you will also find out what she's studying. The school will also gain by having motivated pupils and well-informed parents who are fully involved with their children's education.



As your child gets older, of course she needs to become more independent. Helping your child to get organised, providing equipment and a quiet place to work and offering lots of encouragement will get her off to the right start.

### **How to help**

- Find somewhere at home as a homework area. It needs a flat surface, a good light source and resources such as pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, glue, dictionary and notebook to hand.
- Set up a routine. Plan a homework timetable so you both know what your child needs to do and when.
- It's a good idea if your child has a break and something to eat before starting on homework.
- Ask your child to explain the homework task and how it follows on from what she was studying at school.
- Be interested and be on hand to talk to your child about what she has learnt so far.
- Help your child to become an independent learner. Explain how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary rather than simply giving an answer in order to get the task finished.
- Don't be tempted to teach your child methods you used at school.
- Turn off the television while homework is underway but do let your child listen to music if she finds it helpful.

- Use home/school books to note how your child tackles the task, what is done well and where she has difficulties. (Remember, your child is probably one of 30 so keep your comments brief!) Read carefully any comments that your child's teacher makes in return.
- Discourage your child from copying when she's asked to do research tasks. Talk about the information together, work out the key facts and help your child to write these down as brief notes.
- Be positive about your child's attempts. If you have concerns about her progress, make an appointment with the school.
- Don't let homework become a chore. Make it a special time that you both look forward to.
- A word of warning: we are extremely keen that parents become fully involved in your child's education but please don't be tempted to correct homework and make your child copy it out. We need to know how much your child understands and can do independently.