

# Ten Homework Tips for Parents

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## *1. Establish a Routine*

The first step in creating a positive homework pathway for your child is by primarily creating a routine. This may mean that parents may have to compromise with their child on the working conditions for homework time. That means helping students designate a set time and place where they can comfortably - and routinely - hit the books without being disturbed. If a child is comfortable independently working in his or her bedroom, then parents may need to allow this freedom and choice of the child; however, if a child's homework is incomplete or if their grades drop, then parents should immediately step in and enforce a different homework strategy and routine.



## *2. Create Boundaries*

Parents should create clear boundaries for their child. This may entail that a teenager's cell phone must be turned off during homework time, or a child's television or radio must be off until assignments are complete.

## *3. Get Organized*

For younger children, a parent may need to create a homework calendar that both the parent and the child can clearly access and see. This may help a child learn how to plan ahead and create a schedule for long-term elementary and middle school projects.

## *4. Accountability and Responsibility*

Regardless of a child's age or school grade, a parent must immediately require their child's personal accountability for homework and assignments. If a child fails to hold up their end of the bargain, then the established consequences should be enforced.

## *5. Create a "Learning Space"*

For many children, a "learning space" that is specifically set aside for homework can allow them to mentally enter into a "school mode" when they are at home. A parent must create a free space for a child to complete assignments without disruptions or distractions.

## *6. Teach Prioritization*

Children are gradually assigned more homework tasks as they progress through the school grades, and parents can intervene and teach children how to prioritize their homework assignments. If a project is due in a week, a parent can help their child to set up a time line for small tasks each day. Or, if a child is feeling overwhelmed, a parent can help their child make a list of everything that must be done, and then number each task in order to prioritize the academic responsibilities.

### ***7. Check Your Child's Progress***

Many schools now post grades and homework assignments online. Parents can speak with their child's teacher(s) about the best ways to check in on the student's progress throughout the semester and school year.

### ***8. Allow Freedoms When Earned***

If a child successfully meets all of the outlined homework rules and expectations, parents can allow certain appropriate freedoms if their child seems to be excelling in their tasks and schoolwork. For example, if a child asks to change their homework time or change their "learning space," parents should experiment with new freedoms as the child gradually excels with their own academic responsibility.

### ***9. Be a Study Buddy***

Many times, especially when a child feels overwhelmed with a task or assignment, parents can offer support by simply helping their child study. This involves quizzing a child, teaching a child study strategies, or also just helping a child get organized. Sometimes the simple act of giving a child attention during difficult tasks can boost a child's morale and effort.

### ***10. Encourage and Support***

Most importantly, a parent should serve as a motivational academic cheerleader. Homework should not be a punishment or a time that's dreaded. Approach homework with a positive attitude, and consistently reward the child with positive verbal feedback. When compliments are specific and meaningful, a child will feel more confident and motivated to continually follow through with his or her responsibilities and performance.