



# A Teacher's Guide to Homework Tips for Parents

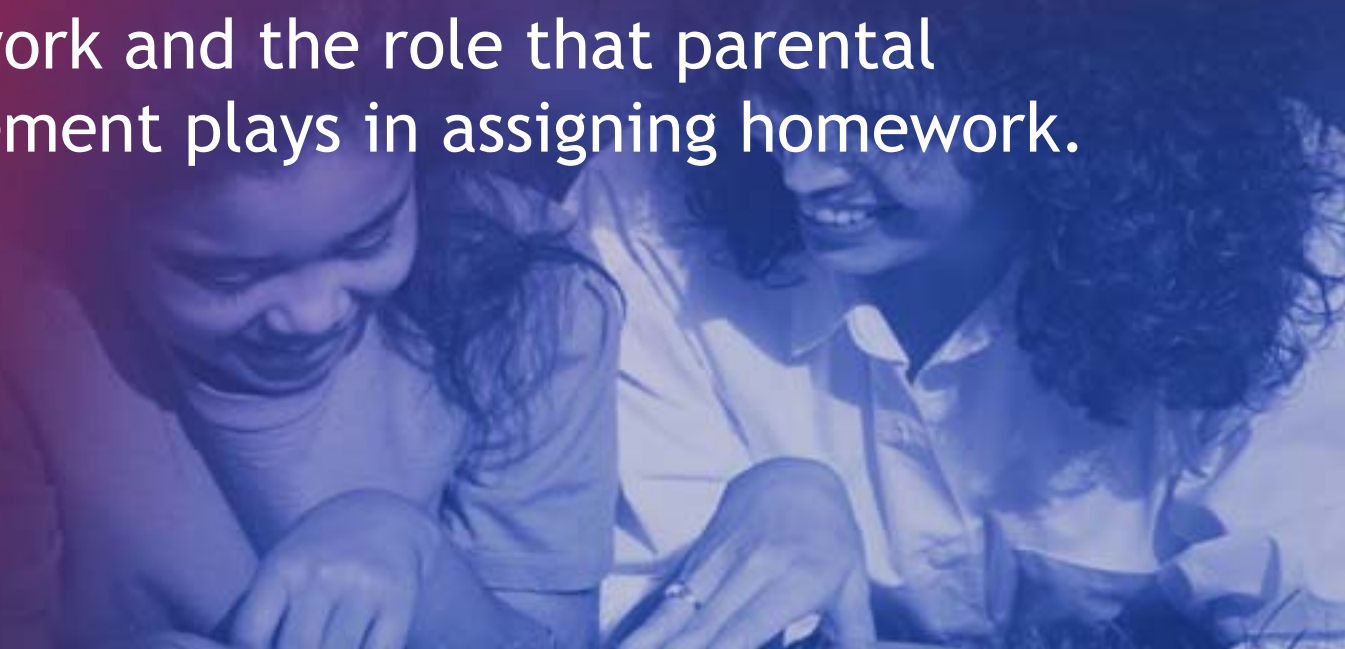
U. S. Department of Education





# A Teacher's Guide to Homework Tips for Parents

This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Education to assist parents, caregivers and teachers in understanding the importance of homework and the role that parental involvement plays in assigning homework.





# True or False?

- Homework should only be given to students in grades four and above.

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- Assigned homework should focus only on one aspect of learning.



# True or False?

- If a child is having trouble with his or her homework, parents should reach out to the teacher or school for help.

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- All homework will have a positive impact on students in the long run.



# What Teachers Can Tell Parents About Homework

- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.
- Make sure the materials your child needs—such as paper, pencils and a dictionary—are available.
- Help your child with time management.
- Be positive about homework.



# What Teachers Can Tell Parents About Homework

- When your child does homework, you do “homework,” such as balancing a checkbook.
- When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.
- When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.
- If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.



# What Teachers Can Tell Parents About Homework

- Stay informed about your child's school assignments.
- Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.
- Watch your child for signs of failure or frustration.
- Reward progress in homework.



# Homework Tips on Reading: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Have your child read aloud to you every night.
- Choose a quiet place, free from distractions, for your child to do his nightly reading assignments.
- As your child reads, point out spelling and sound patterns such as *cat*, *pat*, *hat*.





# Homework Tips on Reading: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- When your child reads aloud to you and makes a mistake, point out words she has missed and help her to read the word correctly.
- After your child has stopped to correct a word he has read, have him go back and reread the entire sentence from the beginning to make sure he understands what the sentence is saying.



# Homework Tips on Reading: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Ask your child to tell you in her own words what happened in a story.
- To check your child's understanding of what he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.



# Homework Tips on Reading: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Ask your child why she thinks a character acted in a certain way and ask your child to support her answer with information from the story.
- Before getting to the end of a story, ask your child what he thinks will happen next and why.



# Homework Tips on Math: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Encourage your child to use a daily math assignment book.
- Check with your child daily about his homework.
- If your child is experiencing problems in math, contact the teacher.



# Homework Tips on Math: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Encourage the principal to use research-based peer tutoring programs for math.
- Try to be aware of how your child is being taught math, and don't teach strategies and shortcuts that conflict with the approach the teacher is using.



# Homework Tips on Math: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Engage in frequent communication with your child's teacher.
- Request that your child's teacher schedule after-school math tutoring sessions if your child really needs help.



# Homework Tips on Math: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Check in with the teacher and ask what you can do to help.
- Ask the teacher about online resources that you can use with your child at home.



# Homework Tips on Math: What Teachers Can Tell Parents

- Use household chores as opportunities for reinforcing math learning such as cooking and repair activities.





# Resource Information

Call 1-800-USA-LEARN or  
visit [www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov](http://www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov)