



PARENTING POSTS

A newsletter for parents of fourth-grade students

Hassle-free Homework

How Can I Help My Child With Homework?

- Together with your child, develop a positive homework habit by setting aside time each day for school work. A consistent time, pattern and place helps develop good habits.
- Review your child's day and any homework assignments.
- Help your child read through the assignments and estimate the time needed to complete each subject.
- Break large jobs into small steps. Writing a book report means choosing a book, reading the book, taking notes, and writing a draft and then the final report. Breaking the task into doable pieces and scheduling each part on a planner is good practice for your student as they develops study skills.
- Have your child complete a small portion of the assignment, then pause to assess understanding. For example, ask your child to do three math problems and explain how they solved the problems before tackling the rest of the math assignment.
- Show your child how to do things rather than doing them for your child; be available to answer questions.
- Offer help only after your child has tried alone.
- Allow time for breaks but avoid putting things off.
- Locate homework supplies in a specific area, such as a desk or kitchen cabinet. Consider buying duplicates of some supplies on your child's supply lists.
- Determine your child's learning style and match his or her style to study skills or activities that help him or her learn well.
- Help your child access to reputable sources for information on the Internet.
- Go to the library together regularly.
- Offer ideas for projects related to school studies. Let your child talk through ideas with you.
- Review completed homework and discuss it with your child(ren). Encourage them to share what has been learned.
- Encourage all efforts. Use descriptive praise to note the things your child does well. Don't dwell on shortcomings.
- Share ways you try to improve with your children.



Now that your child has entered fourth grade, you've probably noticed a difference in the amount and type of homework he or she brings home. This homework extends your child's learning beyond the classroom.

Stress Less Activity



Stress is part of everyone's life. Even young children! Try this activity with your child to help reduce stress and enjoy time together.

Design your own comic strip from a funny situation that happened in your week.

Your involvement does take time and effort. However, most parents report that when they are involved in their child's school and homework, their child enjoys school and gets along better with teachers and peers. Also, you will better understand your child's learning needs, the expectations of teachers and how your child is progressing in school.

Your child may improve his or her grades and develop a positive attitude about school, education and the future. This does not mean your child will not experience disappointments and failure from time to time. We all do. Failure can be absorbed if your child has plenty of experiences with success. Remember to allow your child time for both work and play.

Learning Styles

Some children learn best by seeing the information (visual learners), some by hearing (auditory learners) and some by physical involvement or "doing" (kinesthetic learners). Most people use all three ways to take in information but prefer one style over the others. Each person in your family will have his or her own learning style.

Material should be presented in a variety of ways to accommodate students' different learning styles. For example, if new spelling words are presented by calling out the letters, auditory learners will understand but visual learners are not able to "picture" the word. If, however, the spelling words also appear in print, visual learners see the way the word looks so they remember it more easily. Kinesthetic learners might benefit by writing the words or tracing over them to commit them to memory.

Visual Learning

Spelling and math often come easily for visual learners because they can "see" the word or problem. Visual learners enjoy movies, museums, charts, maps and graphs. Encourage them to imagine what things look like. This will increase their ability to remember. Show appreciation by leaving notes, cards and pictures for them.



Auditory Learning

Auditory learners learn best by listening. They often spell a word the way it sounds rather than as they saw it in print. They may have trouble with reading because they do not visualize well. Some auditory learners have conversations aloud with themselves. They like to talk things over, and they do well when people contribute verbally in small or large groups (debates, plays). This type of learner enjoys imagining how things will sound and remembers facts best when they are presented in a poem or song. Tell children who prefer this learning style they are loved and valued with words.

Kinesthetic Learning

Kinesthetic learners learn by doing. They learn best through movement and manipulation. They like to find out how things work and are very successful in the practical arts. This style of learner will understand math when you let them measure, bake, build and level.

Kinesthetic learners may move around a lot (rock in chair, tap feet) and have trouble sitting for long periods. They like to participate and use their hands. They even may like the feel of fabric rather than the look of the clothes they wear. This explains why they like to study on a carpet or textured bedspread. They may have to walk around while doing their homework assignment. Tape flashcards around the house and see if your child's test scores improve. Kinesthetic learners are very sensitive to feelings in themselves and others. Show your love and appreciation with hugs, pats on the back and celebratory fist bumps.

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