



PARENTING POSTS

A newsletter for parents of 2nd grade students

Homework Helps

“I have homework tonight!”

As a parent hearing those words, do you immediately feel your head start to ache, or do you welcome it as a chance to share some one-to-one time with your child? If you choose to take an active interest in reading and supervising homework, you will enjoy:

- Learning about areas of your child’s life at school.
- Visiting about the day’s activities.
- Getting a glimpse of your child’s learning patterns and abilities.

Spending time with your child doing homework shows you value school and learning. Try the following suggestions to improve homework habits at your house:

- Sit down together, review the assignment, check for understanding, provide the necessary materials and stay near, doing your own paperwork or reading while your child works.
- When they are finished, ask them to explain what they did and why. This will give the child a chance to work through the problem again.
- Parents should not give answers or do the work for children. Your active interest will help your child get positive results. Knowing what your child is studying will help you explain how what they are learning in school relates to your family life and the world.
- Young children are usually proud to have homework. Sharing their excitement now will set the stage for positive homework habits. When other interests and activities appear as your child gets older, a set pattern and expectations will help keep homework a priority.
- Set aside a time and place for homework.
- Keep a drawer of supplies stocked with tools the child may need to complete his or her homework.
- Post email and websites for the school near the homework area.
- Remove all distractions for better concentration.



On average, your child will have about 10 minutes of homework per grade each night.



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.

Anything outdoors! Walk, bike, swing, do chores, or just be outside and pause to notice nature.

Science – Experiments are often a child’s first homework assignment. Help your child by collecting supplies and coaching your child through it. Children learn best when they are actively involved in the process.

Spelling lists may appear each week. Five minutes of spelling each night can help a child master this skill. Post the list in your house and make an effort to use the weekly spelling words in conversation.

Reading is a vital skill for everyone. We read to learn, expand our world and find solutions. When children read aloud, they improve their pronunciation, develop voice control and learn the meaning of new words. Help children find books that match their current interests. Read chapter books aloud, but stop before the last chapter and leave the book out so family members can read the ending on their own. Talk about the story at dinner when everyone has read or heard the end. Try a nightly screen free hour when everyone reads. Having male and female reading role models is important.



Your active interest in homework does not ensure a straight-A student. Let your child know you expect them to do their best. Show you love your child regardless of their marks in school. Respect your child’s individual differences. Most teachers and schools do not use A-B-C grades for second graders. Learn about the teacher’s expectations and help your child understand what is expected of them. You will be surprised how providing your support can improve your child’s attitude, behavior and grades.

Regular contact with the teacher will help keep everyone informed. Volunteering to help with field trips or classroom work will help you connect with the school culture as well as show your child how much you value school and learning.

On average, your child will have about 10 minutes of homework per grade each night. In other words, a second grader will have about 20 minutes of homework. If your child struggles or spends much more time than this with homework, schedule a meeting with the teacher regularly to determine possible causes and solutions.



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