Easy Homework Tips: A Better Way to do Homework in 5 easy steps!

There is a direct relationship between how organized a child is and how well they do in school. If your kid is struggling, one of the first things that you can do as a parent is to take a look at the tools you're providing to help develop good organizing skills.

Homework tip #1: Set up a homework Station

Where does your kid do their homework? Sitting at the kitchen table? Are they in front of the television? If your child does not have a quiet, undisturbed location for studying, do whatever you can to find one – now! Kids don't require much space. Even a small niche is fine as long as it is:

- away from noise and distraction
- has comfortable seating
- good lighting
- offers enough room to spread out

If you can't designate a permanent work station, set up a rolling cart so your child can easily take his papers and supplies from place to place.

Homework tip #2: Provide the right supplies

The school supplies a child needs depend a great deal on his grade and classes. But every homework station should be equipped with the basics:

- writing implements
- paper
- scissors
- tape
- ruler
- stapler

Make sure that these items are organized so that they are easy to find. It's not a bad idea for your child to have duplicates of those items they use both at home and in the classroom. Keep one set at their homework station and include another set in their school binder. If the items are placed in a transparent poly envelope you run less risk of something important being lost or left behind.

Homework tip #3: Teach time Management Skills

It's one thing to set up a functional physical space for doing schoolwork – it's another thing altogether to create the right MENTAL environment. Children have to be taught to focus since it's not a skill with which many of us are born.

Have a set time for completing homework each day – before play, before dinner, away from distractions – a solid routine your child can count on.

If your kid still has focus problems, try setting a timer – ask your child to work for small chunks at a time, taking a short break between sessions. You can also set a recurring alarm as a reminder to bring your child back to the task at hand if they drift off while working on an assignment.

Homework tip #4: Check up on Your Kids

Another important factor in insuring homework success is taking stock of the school situation every single day. The following method is a great way to help organize your child.

Step 1: Set up a 2-sided pocket portfolio for each class with a different color for each subject. The left side is for new assignments – the right side is for completed homework that needs to be handed in.

Step 2: Check the left pocket when your student comes home from school to see what must be done that evening. Check the right pocket when your child says their homework is finished (to make sure that's actually the case).

Step 3: It's also good to double check in the morning to make sure your child has ALL of their folders and school paraphernalia with them. Think about how easy it is to walk out of the house having forgotten something even when you're organized!

Homework tip #5: Color Coding is Key

It can be hard to keep all the materials for one class together – so the trick is to color code. Choose a different color for each class – for example math is blue, history is orange, and science is green. For math class your child would have:

- a blue pocket portfolio
- a blue textbook cover
- a small blue poly envelope for any class-specific school supplies
- possibly a blue poly envelope or expanding wallet for larger materials

Help your child follow these homework tips and there will be no more excuses for showing up to class unprepared!

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