



Making Homework Time A Good Time for Your Family

At Herbert Mills Elementary we give children homework to give their learning extra reinforcement. Homework also gives you the chance to see what your child knows and can do. To make homework-time a good time in your home, try these ideas.

Be positive.

1. Your smile, hug and encouragement will "power up" your child during homework. Your attitude about homework will be your child's attitude. If you find yourself getting mad, frustrated or yelling at your child, stop. Let your child's teacher know so he or she can help you turn things around.
2. Say encouraging things to your child before he begins and while he is doing homework. For example, you can say, "You're working hard on that." "You are learning new things at school." "This won't take long and then you'll be able to play." "I'm proud of you."
3. If your child is struggling, that is the most important time to be positive. Tell her, "That's OK. You did your best." If your child has a hard time with homework several times, let your child's teacher know what was hard for your child.

Let your child know that effort is the most important thing.

1. Compliment and reward your child for his effort.
2. If your child asks for help, ask her some questions like "What have you tried already?" Ask her to read the directions to you or another family member. If she needs help, have a family member read the directions for her and stay close by while she tries to answer the questions.
3. Ask your child to check his work. When he finds his own mistakes that helps him learn.

Have a time and place for homework.

1. Always turn off the TV when your child does homework.
2. Let your child do their homework in a place they like. Try the kitchen table, a corner of the living room or sitting on their bed.

Make home-work time fun or rewarding.

1. Give your child a snack to eat while she does her home work.
2. Reward your child for every day that she does her homework without complaining with a prize at the end of the week like a trip to a park or a visit to the pet store.
3. Let your child practice spelling words by writing them in shaving cream on the kitchen counter or in a pan of flour.
4. Let your child watch TV or play video games only after he has finished his homework.
5. Take turns reading with your child.
6. Let your child practice math with small objects like Legos, checkers, or with crackers or pretzels
7. Give your child some choices about homework. Let her decide what she will do first or second. Let her decide where she will do her homework.

Find what works for you and your child.

Every family is different. In some families older siblings supervise younger siblings. Some families have their child do their homework at an after-school program. In some families, children come home after school and play outside before they start their homework.

If homework time is frustrating for you or your child don't worry or wait! Let your child's teacher know. We want help because we care about you and your family. *B.Boone, 2009*