

Homework Ideas That Work

Check off the strategies you think would work best for your child and discuss with the teacher.

What Parents Can Do

<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure your child's time after school hours so that homework is completed at the same time each day. Some children have more focus immediately after school, before they enter "home mode." Others find they need a little down time to have a snack and play before settling down to tackle homework.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ask your child's teacher how she passes along homework assignments. She might hand out worksheets, write homework on the board, or assign it orally. If your child forgets the assignments or supplies he will need, discuss different ways to assign homework, such as keeping it posted on the board throughout the day or using an online calendar to allow assignments to be accessed from home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a homework spot away from the family area where there will be fewer distractions. Stock the area with pencils, pens, paper, and a calculator.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with your child at the beginning of homework time to help him break assignments into 15- to 20-minute work periods. Allow him to take a short break after each period.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use behavioral charts to motivate your child. You might award a star each time he continues to work for 15 minutes, and give another star when homework is complete and in a folder to be returned to school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If returning work to school is a problem, talk to the teacher about your child's scanning the completed assignment (if it isn't done on a computer) and emailing it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a checklist your child can follow each day —gather supplies, complete math worksheets, read, etc.

What Teachers Can Do

<input type="checkbox"/>	Read assignments aloud and post them on the board each morning.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Allow enough time during class for students to write down the assignments. Consider keeping assignments posted for the entire day.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use an online calendar to allow access to homework assignments from home. Teachers can use Google calendar or Assign-A-Day, a free tool for educators that lets students and parents see homework assignments, upcoming tests, and due dates from their phone, tablet, or computer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assign study buddies, but don't put one student in charge of the other. Team up every student in the class and ask each one to check to make sure their partner has everything he needs to bring home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request that each student have a folder designated for completed work only. Each morning, have students take out their folders and hand in homework.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Be responsive to the length of time homework assignments take. For some students, an assignment can take hours to complete at home. Consider giving them partial assignments, such as solving the odd-numbered problems. This will allow the child to show progress and understanding in less time and with less frustration.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with parents to determine how much time is needed to complete homework. If a student works on an assignment for an hour, the parent may consider it completed, even if the child didn't finish every problem.