



Your Child and Homework



Purpose of Homework

- To review and practice what is covered in class
- To be prepared for the next day's discussions
- Explore subjects more fully than class time allows
- Develop good study habits
 - Teaches students to work independently
 - Encourage self-discipline and responsibility

How to Help

- Set regular time for homework (chosen by student and parents)
- Pick a place away from family distraction with school supplies available
- Provide guided computer time for research
- Set a good example by reading, using math for projects, and supporting the school
- Engage children in conversation about topics they are learning about

Monitoring Assignments

- Homework should be no more than 30 – 60 minutes per night in third grade
- Be available to help and if your child is struggling with an assignment, write a brief note for the teacher so concepts can be reviewed or reinforced in school
- Look over completed assignments and help your child correct errors, but please mark in some way the errors so the teacher does not have a false sense of mastery
- Help figure out problems by asking questions, not just giving answers
- Monitor time spent viewing TV and playing video games which tend to stimulate children before bedtime
- Encourage a minimum of 20 – 35 minutes of silent and/or oral reading before bedtime
- Watch for signs of frustration and give a break if needed
- Give praise often for accomplishments and give criticism in the most positive way possible (i.e. "I know your teacher will be proud of you when you use your best handwriting")

Keep Lines of Communication Open with your Child's Teacher

- Send short messages to teacher by note/e-mail or if necessary, by phone of important information which might affect the school day for your child
- Let teacher know if child is experiencing changes in routine that might affect school success
- Relay frequent frustrations with homework to teacher