

HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN  
SCHOOL:

7 Tips You Can Do at  
Home

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Department of  
Education

WHAT DO YOU DO TO HELP YOUR  
CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL?

Name three  
things you do

## 7 TIPS YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- 1. Read**
- 2. Talk**
- 3. Monitor Schoolwork**
- 4. Monitor Screens**
- 5. Use the Internet Properly**
- 6. Teach Responsibility and Independence**
- 7. Encourage Active Learning**

## Time in School

Although school is very important, it does not really take up very much of a child's time.

In the US, the school year is 180 days; in other nations, it can last up to 240 days and students are often in school more hours per day than at home



## 7 THINGS WE CAN DO AT HOME!

Clearly, the hours and days that a child is *not* in school are important for learning, too.

Here are some things that you can do to help your child to make the most of that time:



## 1. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ

# READ!

Helping your child become a reader is the **single most important** thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school—and in life.

It is the key to **lifelong learning.**



## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ



**Read, talk** with your **band** and encourage them to **ask questions** and to talk about **the story**. Ask them to **predict** what will come next.

If your child can ask them to **read to you** from books or magazines that they enjoy.

## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ



Make sure that your home **has lots of reading materials** that are appropriate for your child. Keep books, magazines and newspapers in the house.

Show that you **value reading**. Let your child **see you reading for pleasure** as well as for performing your **routine activities** as an adult.

Go with them to the **library** and check out books for yourself and for your child.

When your child sees that reading is important to you, they will likely decide that it's important to them, too.

## 2. TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

### TALK WITH YOUR CHILD



**Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success.**

It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through responding to that talk that young kids begin to pick up the **language skills and vocabulary** they will need if they are to do well.

Kids who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often **have problems learning** and comprehending what they read.

## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

### Talk about...

- ❖ what they're doing at school
- ❖ funny signs, new cars, interesting people.

### As you shop in a store talk about...

- ❖ prices, differences in brands and how to pick out good vegetables and fruit
- ❖ give your child directions ~~but~~ where to find certain items, then have him go get them

### As you fix dinner talk about...

- ❖ the steps in a recipe, how to cook



## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD



### As you fix a sink or repair a broken sink talk about...

- ❖ the tools that you use.
- ❖ each step you take to complete the work
- ❖ what you're doing and why you're doing it.
- ❖ ask them for suggestions about how you should do something.

### As you watch TV talk about...

- ❖ the news and world affairs.
- ❖ the characters, which ones they like and dislike and who the actors are.
- ❖ compare the program to a program you liked when you were their age.

## TALK **AND** LISTEN

When your child talks to you, **stop what you're doing** and **pay attention**.

**Look at them and ask questions** to let them know that you've heard what they said: "So when are you going to help your granddad work on his car?"

When your child tells you about something, **occasionally repeat what they say** to let them know that you're listening closely: "The school bus broke down twice!"



## 3. MONITOR HOMEWORK

Let your child know that you think **education is important** and so homework has to be done



## MONITOR HOMEWORK

- ❖ Have a special place for your child to study.
- ❖ The area should have good lighting and it should be fairly quiet.
- ❖ Provide supplies and resources for work to be done.



## MONITOR HOMEWORK

- ❖ Set a regular time for homework.
- ❖ Work with your child to develop a schedule.
- ❖ You may find it helpful to have them write out their schedule and put it in a place where you'll see it often, such as on the refrigerator or a corkboard.

### My School Week

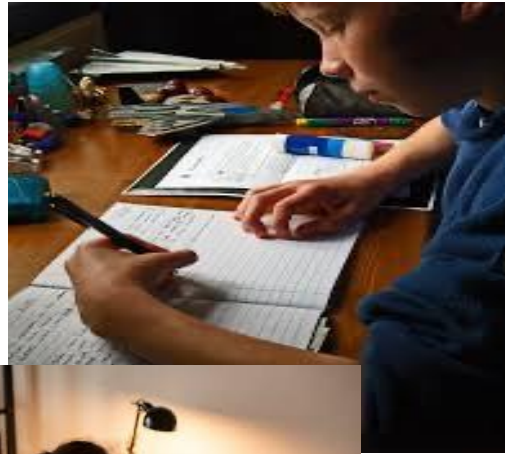
\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Homework Assignments			
✓	Subject	Assignment	Due Date

## MONITOR HOMEWORK

- ❖ Remove distractions. Turn off the TV and discourage your child from making and receiving social calls during homework time.
- ❖ If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time.



## MONITOR HOMEWORK



### **Don't expect or demand perfection**

Show **interest and praise** her when she's done something well.

If you have criticisms or suggestions, make them in a helpful way.

Helping with homework **doesn't mean doing the homework for them**. It isn't about solving the problems for your child, it's about **supporting** them to do his best.

You can help by **monitoring their work** to see that they completes it and **praising his efforts**.

## STUDY SKILLS



Help your child **create a to study** notes each night or over several nights before a test.

When studying your child should

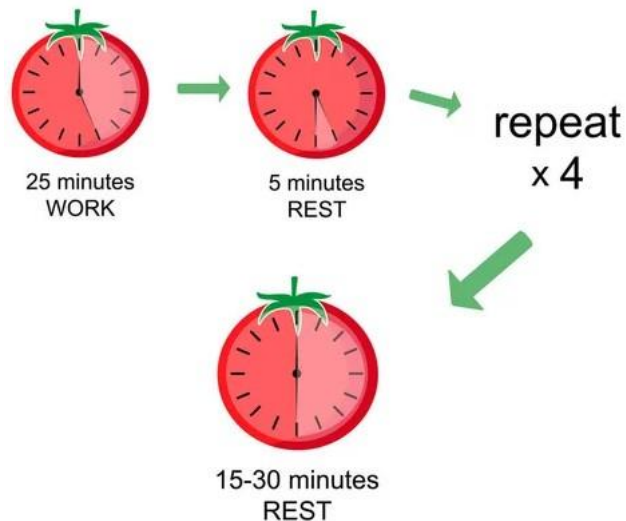
- Read her notes aloud
- Write her notes over more clearly

Turn important information into questions

Use index cards to note most important information

- Pair up with a study buddy and ask each other questions that might be on the test

**Use the Pomodoro Technique**



## 4. MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Kids spend more time on a screen than doing homework.

### MONITOR SCREEN TIME



**Limit the time** that you let your child use their screens. Too much screen time cuts into important activities in a child's life, such as reading, playing with friends and talking with family members.

**Model good viewing habits.** Remember that kids often imitate their parents' behavior.

**Watch TV with your child** when you can. Talk with them about what you see. Answer their questions. Ask your child question to assess their comprehension and make predictions.

## MONITOR SCREEN TIME



When you can't watch TV with your child, **spot check** to see what they're watching.

**Ask questions after the program ends.** See what **excites** and what **troubles** them. Find out what they have learned and remembered.

Go to the **library and find books** that explore the themes **of the TV shows** that your child watches.

## 5. HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO USE THE INTERNET PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY

**For kids to succeed today, they must be able to use the Internet.**

## HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO USE THE INTERNET PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY

### Spent time online with your child.

Learn along with your child. If your child knows about computers, let her teach you. Ask her to explain what they is doing and why.

Help your child to locate **appropriate Web sites**.

Point them in the direction of the sites that can help with homework or that relate to their interests.

Pay attention to any games they might download or copy from the Internet.



## HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO USE THE INTERNET PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY



You might consider using **"filters" or software programs to block** your child from accessing sites that may be inappropriate.

Monitor the amount of time that your child spends online.

Have them place a timer near the computer and keep track of how much time they are spending online.

## TEACH YOUR CHILD RULES FOR USING THE INTERNET SAFELY



### Let them know that they should never do the following:

- ❖ tell anyone—including his friends—his computer password;
- ❖ use bad language or send cruel threatening or untrue e-mail messages;
- ❖ give out any personal information, including his name or the names of family members, home address, phone number, age, school name;
- ❖ arrange to meet a stranger that they have "talked" with in an online "chat room."

# S

### **STAY SAFE**

Don't give your personal information to people/places you don't know.



# M

### **DON'T MEET UP**

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. always check with an adult you trust.



# A

### **ACCEPTING FILES**

Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.



# R

### **RELIABLE?**

Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?



# T

### **TELL SOMEONE**

Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.





## 6. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY

### RULES

Every home needs **reasonable rules** that kids know and can depend on.

Have your **child help you to set rules.**

Then make sure that you **enforce the rules consistently.**





## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY

❖ Establish rules



❖ Make it clear to your child that they have to take responsibility for what they do, both at home and at school.

## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE AND TO RESPONSIBLE WORK INDEPENDENTLY

- ❖ Work with your child to **develop a reasonable, consistent schedule** of jobs to do around the house.
- ❖ List chores on a calendar.
- ❖ Younger kids can help set the table or put away their toys and clothes.
- ❖ Older kids can help prepare meals and clean up afterwards.



## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE AND TO RESPONSIBLE WORK INDEPENDENTLY



❖ Show your child how to **break a job down into small** steps, then to do the job one step at a time.

❖ This works for everything—getting dressed, cleaning a room or doing a big homework assignment.

## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE AND TO RESPONSIBLE WORK INDEPENDENTLY

❖ Make your child responsible for **getting ready** to go to school each morning—getting up on time making sure that they have everything they need for the school day and so forth.

❖ If necessary, make a **checklist** to help them remember what they have to do.

❖ Monitor what your child does **after school**, in the evenings and on weekends.

❖ If you can't be there when your child gets home, give them the responsibility of **checking in with you by phone** to discuss their plans.

## 7. ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LEARNING

Kids need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework.

## ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LEARNING

- ❖ Active learning involves **asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests.**
- ❖ Active learning can take place when your child **plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores.**



## ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LEARNING



- ❖ To promote active learning, **listen to your child's ideas** and respond to them.
- ❖ **Act on some of the ideas** you discuss.
- ❖ When you **encourage** this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

## LET'S TALK

**What do  
you  
already do  
at home?**

**What new  
strategies  
will you try?**

ANY QUESTIONS? |

*Thank you!*

*Please make sure to add your name and child's school in  
the chat box.*

*CITE*

*Contact me at*

*[kostopoulosstella@gmail.com](mailto:kostopoulosstella@gmail.com)*