

## HOMework

Homework for elementary students helps them meet tough academic standards by developing good study habits, fostering positive attitudes toward school and communicating to students the idea that learning takes work at home as well as at school. Approximate minutes your child should spend on homework, not including daily reading or interruptions: kinder/first grade - 10 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - 20 minutes, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - 30 minutes, 4<sup>th</sup> grade - 40 minutes and 5<sup>th</sup> grade - 50 minutes.

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP:

- Make homework a family commitment. Agree upon homework rules and make sure they are faithfully followed. Carefully plan homework time so it does not interfere with bed time.
- Help set up an organized place for homework to be done with the needed resources such as books, paper, pencils, dictionary, etc. and turn off the TV.
- Establish a consistent schedule for completing homework to avoid power struggles.
- More than one? If you have several children, experiment to determine if the children do best studying together or in separate areas. Each child may need a slightly different schedule, with rules varying according to age.
- Help your child get started, but do not do the homework for him/her.
- You may need to help your child prioritize the work, offer assistance, keep him/her going by offering advice and encouragement.
- Periodically check to ensure your child is completing the homework correctly. Encourage, motivate and prompt your child and review the completed homework together.
- If your child is practicing a skill, ask him/her to tell you which steps are easy, then assist with the more difficult steps.
- Be a "study buddy" before exams making sure concepts, terms and problems are understood.
- Encourage your child to have pride in what he/she accomplishes; making sure it is completed neatly.
- Encourage perseverance and effort in your child as this will promote pride in what he/she accomplished.
- Keep in touch with the teacher.