How do I Help My Child Develop Good Study Habits?

- ***Do not do your child's homework.*** Doing assignments for your child will not help him or her understand and use information. It may also hinder your child's confidence in his or her abilities.
- ***Help your child make a schedule.*** Writing out assignments will get him or her used to the idea of keeping track of what is due when.
- ***Help your child manage time to complete assignments.*** If your child has a long-term project due, discuss all the steps he or she will need to take to complete it on time, including:

  - Selecting a topic;
  - Doing research by looking up books and other materials on the topic or taking notes;
  - Figuring out what questions to discuss;
  - Drafting an outline;
  - Writing a rough draft;
  - Revising and completing the final draft; and
  - Making a chart that shows how much time he or she expects to spend on each step.

- ***Help your child get started when he or she has to do research reports or other big assignments.*** Take your child to the library. If your child is using a computer for online references, make sure he or she is getting the help needed to use the Internet properly and to find age-appropriate websites.
- ***After your child has completed the research, listen as he or she tells you the points he or she wants to get across through the report.***
- ***Give practice tests.***
- ***Help your child avoid last minute studying.***
- ***Talk with your child about how to take a test.*** Be sure he or she understands how important it is to read instructions carefully, keep track of time and avoid spending too much time on any one question.

Checklist for Helping Your Child with Homework

To show that you think education and homework are important, do you:

- ☐ Set a regular time everyday for homework?
- ☐ Provide your child with the papers, books, pencils and other items needed to do assignments?
- ☐ Provide a well-lit, quiet place to study?
- ☐ Set a good example by showing your child that the skills he or she is learning are an important part of the things adult do?
- ☐ Stay in touch with your child's teacher?
- ☐ Know what your child's homework assignments are?
- ☐ See that your child starts and completes assignments?
- ☐ Make sure the TV is turned off while your child completes homework?
- ☐ Help your child get organized?
- ☐ Encourage your child to develop good study habits?
- ☐ Talk with your child about homework assignments?

For more information:

- The U.S. Department of Education produces the publication *Helping Your Child with Homework.* Find it online at: http://www.ed.gov. Click on "Parents," then on "Helping Your Child." This website also has homework tips for parents.

- The National PTA and the National Education Association produce *Helping Your Student Get the Most Out of Homework and Taking the Hassle Out of Homework - How To Make Homework A More Positive Experience For Your Child.* Find them online at: http://www.pta.org. Click on "Parent Involvement," then click on "Help your Child Succeed", then click on "#5" , "Parents the First Teachers - Support learning at home."

ACRN

America's Career Resource Network

Homework Tips and Study Skills

A resource guide for parents. . .

No Child LEFT BEHIND

This brochure was created using a grant from the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Why do Teachers Assign Homework?

Homework has been a part of students' lives since formal schooling began in the United States.

Homework is important because it can:

- Improve your child's thinking and memory;
- Help your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him or her well throughout life;
- Encourage your child to use time wisely;
- Teach your child to work independently; and
- Teach your child to take responsibility for his or her work.

Teachers assign homework because it helps your child:

- Review and practice what has been covered in class;
- Get ready for the next day's class;
- Learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer websites to find information;
- Explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits;
- Extend learning by applying skills to new situations; and
- Integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.

Homework benefits you as a parent.

When you help your child with his or her homework, you can:

- Learn more about what your child is learning in school;
- Communicate with your child about what he or she is learning; and
- Spark your child's enthusiasm about what he or she is learning.

How should I Help my Child with Homework?

- **Show that you think education and homework are important.**
  If your child knows that you care about what is happening at school, he or she will have a good reason to complete assignments on time.

- **Set a regular time for homework.**
  The best schedule for homework is what works best for your child and your family. Your child's outside activities, such as sports or music lessons may mean that you need a flexible homework schedule. If there is not enough time to finish homework, your child may need to drop an outside activity.

- **Provide an area for your child to do homework.**
  Make sure the area is well lit and has minimal distractions.

- **Ensure that there are no distractions.**
  Discourage your child from making and receiving social telephone calls during homework time. Turn off the television if it is keeping your child from doing his or her homework.

- **Provide supplies and identify resources.**
  Have pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper and a dictionary available. Other supplies that may be helpful include a stapler, paper clips, maps, a calculator, a pencil sharpener, tape, glue, paste, scissors, a ruler, index cards, a thesaurus and an almanac.

- **Show your child that the skills he or she is learning are an important part of the things adults do.**
  Let your child see you reading, writing, using math and doing other things that require thought and effort. Talk to your child about what you do at work.

- **Help your child use everyday routines to support the skills he or she is learning.**
  Teach your child to play word and math games. Help your child look up information about something in which he or she is interested. Talk with your child about what he or she sees and hears when you are together.

- **Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations.**
  Ask your child what was discussed in class that day.

- **Attend school activities.**
  If you can, volunteer to help in your child's classroom or at special events.

- **Look over completed assignments before they are turned in.**
  Then, after the teacher returns completed homework, read the comments to see if your child has done the assignment satisfactorily.