

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH DIFFICULTIES

Tips from experienced parents

1. Make sure your child attempts the task before offering/giving assistance.
2. Ask questions to get your child to explain what has to be done and what he/she has tried so far.
3. Praise any worthy efforts such as neatness, concentration, accuracy.
4. Show your child similar examples.
5. Do homework in small daily chunks to minimize frustration and alternate between easy and hard tasks.
6. Set a manageable goal for your child (e.g. have them do only two examples independently, then check the work, praise or re-explain before trying more).
7. Limit requests for help to encourage independent problem solving.
8. Have your child check completed work for neatness and quality and ask him/her to point out needed improvements or corrections.
9. Have your child try to make corrections independently.
10. If required, provide occasional incentives/rewards for motivation but avoid having an expectation (ultimate goal is the sense of pride in personal achievement, not the treat).
11. Consider making a chart for recording successful homework sessions.
12. Avoid arguing over homework.
13. Review work completed earlier in the year and point out progress made to boost self-confidence.
14. Model learning to your child by showing them examples of your own homework such as extra work from your own job or even something like reading an instruction manual.

If difficulties persist, communicate with your child's teacher. They can provide suggestions to make homework a more positive experience, modify homework expectations, reduce workload, etc. Homework should not become disruptive to family life.