

# Helping Your Child with Homework

## Why Is Homework Important?

Homework helps to reinforce new skills that students learn in the classroom and so helps to improve academic achievement. In addition, homework helps students to develop initiative, time management skills and responsibility. It also bridges the gap between home and school by giving parents the opportunity to observe what their child is learning and the ability to monitor their progress.



## How Much Time Should My Child Spend on Homework?

According to statements by the National PTA and the National Education Association (NEA), the following amounts of homework are recommended:

- \* From kindergarten to 3rd grade, no more than 20 minutes per day.
- \* From 4th to 6th grade, 20 to 40 minutes per day.
- \* From 7th to 12th grade, the recommended amount of time varies according to the type and number of subjects a student is taking.

## The Home-School Relationship

The relationship between the home and the school is important. Research shows that children are more motivated to do homework when parents show a positive attitude and support. Below are some ways to help your child develop a good attitude toward homework:

- \* Talk to your child about school and what he/she likes and dislikes about school and why. Let your child know that he/she can always come to you with problems.
- \* Communicate with your child's teacher. Plan to meet with the teacher at least three times a year to discuss your child's progress. Once a relationship is established, it is easier to examine difficult issues, if they arise. (Request an interpreter if you need one.)
- \* Learn about the curriculum at your child's school. The more you know about what will be taught in the classroom, the better you will be able to help your child with homework.

## Tips for Helping with Homework

- \* Encourage your child to write down homework assignments in the journal provided by the school.
- \* Provide a quiet study area and the necessary tools to complete the homework assignments.
- \* Monitor television viewing and establish a specific homework time.
- \* Praise your child's efforts. If your child asks for help, see if you can help him/her figure out the problem without simply providing the answer.
- \* Encourage your child to get help from his/her teacher if the problem is one you cannot help with.
- \* Make sure your child puts his/her name on and turns in all assignments. Many students forget to hand in their assignments and their grades go down because of it.
- \* Ask to look at your child's homework once it has been marked and returned so you can monitor his/her progress.