



We hear a lot about parents who struggle with helping their children complete homework assignments. Language barriers, time constraints, and homework that is vastly different than what you had to do when you were in school can make it difficult to help at homework time.

There are many ways to support your student. Establishing a routine for completing homework and having the expectation that homework will be assigned and completed is the first step to helping with homework. The following are ways to engage with your student over homework:

- Ask the student to describe the assignment and the response given.
- Ask questions about the student's response...
 - How did you know...?
 - Did you answer the questions completely?
 - Did you check the spelling, capitalization, punctuation?
 - Were you supposed to show your work? Did you show your work?
- Ask questions about assignments...
 - When is the assignment due? Do I need to sign it?
 - If this is a long-term project, how are you breaking up the work to get it done?
 - Do you need to go to the library? Do you need to use the internet to research?
- Ask questions about devices, materials...
 - If the student uses a device at school, and s/he brings it home, what are the rules for charging it? Using it?
 - Is there a safe location where the device is stored when not in use?
 - Do you need any special materials for your project?
- Ask follow-up/feedback questions:
 - How did you do on that assignment?
 - Did you get a chance to have your teacher explain that problem that you were having so much difficulty with on last night's homework?
 - Did you turn in your rough draft?

If students are arriving at home without homework assignments, follow-up with the teacher to be certain that there is not a miscommunication about expectations.

Often, students are required to read for a number of minutes nightly. Make this a routine for everyone. You may read a book together as a family or just set a timer and have everyone in the house reading for 20-30 minutes whether it is a newspaper, magazine, book, etc.

