

Handling Homework Hassles



If homework results in conflict and stress in your home check out these tips

Speak to your child's school

Speaking to your child's school about what's happening at home is an important starting point. They may suggest an alternative or no homework option.

Keep learning experiences positive

Negative experiences of learning, such as fights over homework, can reduce a child's interest in learning. Whether homework is completed or not, try to maintain a positive learning environment.

Offering a single, calm reminder can be helpful

Children get easily distracted and are likely to forget to complete their homework even if they want to finish it.

Timing is important

For some children they work best before school, but for others after school suits them. Every child is different, so if a particular time isn't working for your child, try a different time. Make sure your child isn't hungry or tired before attempting homework.

Other ways to encourage learning:

- **Bedtime reading**

Read with your child at bedtime or give them the option of staying up for an extra ½ an hour to read.

- **Have 1 hr of 'No TV' time post school**

Don't set rules about what they have to do. Children will often naturally do things that support learning. They might choose imaginative play, construction or exploring the natural world. All these things (and others) help develop a child's creative skills, problem solving skills, and fine and gross motor skills.

- **Encourage the exploration of their special interest**

If your child expresses a particular interest in something (e.g. a bug they found) you can use this to expand their learning. You might search the internet together, read stories about their interest, have them write or draw about what they've found, count how many more bugs they can find, etc.

For more ideas:

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/homework.html/context/1962>