

Study Skills Tips by Grade

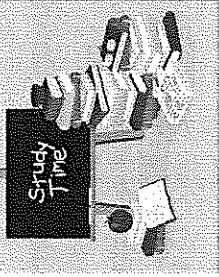
Kindergarten

- Complete homework at the same time and place every day.
- Minimize distractions during homework time (ex: television, siblings).
- Offer your child a small snack before beginning homework to make it easier to concentrate.
- Gather all necessary supplies (backpack, homework folder, pencils, paper, etc.).
- Help them with completing their work and offer encouragement.
- Return all completed work to their homework folder.
- Have a "home" for your child's backpack and other school supplies so they will always know where to find it.

First Grade

(Use in addition to tips for Kindergarteners)

- Make a list of all homework assignments to be done and check off each assignment as it is completed.
- Monitor your child's work and provide help and encouragement if they need it.
- Start studying for a test several days in advance (If there is a test on Friday, begin reviewing material on Tuesday).
- Consider using some of the same learning materials used in the classroom (cubes or blocks for math and whiteboards for writing) to help with completing homework.
- Assist your child with making study materials (index card flashcards) when studying for tests.



Second & Third Grade

Make Homework a Positive Experience

- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Make a homework plan according to preference. Some children like to complete harder or easier homework first.
- Set goals for difficult homework (complete 5 math problems and then take a stretch).
- Encourage your child to participate in study groups.
- Consider giving your child a small reward or privilege after finishing homework.
- Never use homework as a punishment.
- **Make Homework a Priority**
- Make it clear that you expect your child to do homework well.
- Establish a homework routine.
- Establish a family expectation that homework takes priority over activities.

Use Homework to Teach Organization and Improve Learning

- Encourage your child to use an assignment book, write down all assignments and check them off when completed.
- Help your child learn to plan for finishing assignments on time.
- Help your child see tests as a chance to "show-off" what they have learned, rather than something to be feared.

Fourth Grade

- Allow for 30-45 minutes each day for homework.
- Develop a daily or weekly schedule for homework, studying and activities. Decide ahead of time the order in which to complete the tasks (alternate between difficult and easy tasks).
- Cross off tasks as they are completed!
- Choose a particular location to study each time that:
 - ◊ Has enough space for materials to spread out
 - ◊ Is well lit
 - ◊ Has supplies close at hand
 - ◊ Is free from distractions
- Study several nights: plan ahead for the test!
- Study brief but hard: set a timer for 20 minutes, then...
 - Take a break!
 - Set small goals: break the task down to fit into the time slots.
 - Study until the information is completely understood.
 - Study some more!
 - Study what was forgotten: if studying ahead of time, should be easy to see what needs more work.
 - Review before the test: the night before should be a review for all of the material on the test.
 - Provide help in organizing the tasks.
 - Make sure your child understands the material.
 - Check the quality of work.
 - Help to adhere to the studying guidelines.
 - Praise effort! Praise often! Praise powerfully!

