Homework: A Helpful Overview

“New” Math

What?

Why?

How?

Learn Multiple Strategies to Approach Mathematics Problems

Ex. Ten-Frame

Ex. Number Bonds

Promote a Growth Mindset

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<th>SAY THIS</th>
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<td>“It seems like time to try a new strategy.”</td>
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<td>“It looks like that was easy for you. Let’s see if we can find something challenging to keep growing your brain.”</td>
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<td>“That’s not the right answer. Let me show you how to do it.”</td>
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<td>“That problem was really hard. But, your effort paid off! Next time, you’ll be ready for this kind of challenge!”</td>
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Math is a progression. Skills learned in early grades (number sense, place value) will support skills in later grades (algebraic thinking).

To help kids gain a deeper understanding of mathematics, rather than just solving a problem using a standard algorithm.

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RI INTENSIVE MATH INTERVENTION PROJECT
Helping your child with their homework

Here are some ways you can help your child when they are completing their math homework. First, homework is not about getting the answer right. It is an opportunity for your child to practice what they’ve learned. Second, encourage your child as they do their homework, but don’t try and teach them how to do it. Last, communicate with the teacher about how your child performed during homework by using the key below.

When checking your child’s homework

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<th>Mark the problem</th>
<th>This can let your child’s teacher know that your child:</th>
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<td>Completes the problem quickly without support (not necessarily correct).</td>
<td>⭐ or ✅</td>
<td>Is either fluent and accurate OR they are struggling to self-regulate/check their work and may be rushing to complete the task.</td>
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| Struggles to begin the problem, asks for help, or requires prompts.               | Circle the question | May not know how to setup the problem.  
May not understand the problem.  
May not feel comfortable with the content.  
May not understand which operation to use. |

If your child is struggling:

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<td>Ask your child if they understand what the problem is asking and have them explain it in their own words.</td>
<td>Tell your child they are doing something incorrectly and have them try to fix it.</td>
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<td>Ask your child to draw a picture or try another strategy to solve the problem.</td>
<td>Try to teach your child the content or show them the standard algorithm to use instead.</td>
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<td>Read the problem to your child, emphasizing key words (e.g., few, none, all, in addition to, reduce).</td>
<td>Tell them what operation they should use to complete the problem.</td>
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<td>Ask your child to skip a problem and come back to it if they are struggling.</td>
<td>Create an opportunity where your child becomes angry or shuts down completely.</td>
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Try asking your child’s teacher questions like this...

- Can you share/send home a strategy that you use in class that can help my child when completing the math homework?
- Does homework have an impact on my child’s grade? If so, how?
- Are there activities I can attend at school, or resources you can point me to, that will help me learn more about math instruction and how to support my child?
Why is homework so difficult for...

A Child:
- Lack of subject understanding
- Lack of discipline, organization, etc.
- Shyness – afraid to ask questions
- Homework materials not available
- Does not see the importance
- Family activities/after school life
- Work is too difficult or easy
- Too much work

Parents:
- Parents perceive themselves as unable to help with the homework
- The child dislikes doing the homework
- Homework causes arguments, either between the child and adults or among the adults in the household.

Homework Roles

Parents
- Early Grades: Check backpack, homework; get materials and information from teacher
- Parents perceive themselves as unable to help with the homework
- Later Grades: Homework reminders; ask if help is needed; get materials and information from child
- The child dislikes doing the homework
- Always! Promote a growth mindset

Students
- Attitude; Effort; Ask for help before they are discouraged

Teachers
- Early Grades:
- Later Grades:
- Always!
- Structure the learning through Rubrics/Syllabus to communicate “why & how”
- Provide meaningful assignments that link to academic standards
- Give feedback and evaluation that highlight a child’s strengths and areas for growth

Parents should:
- Praise effort, not answers
- Understand homework is child’s responsibility
- Encourage independence

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