

K-3 HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

THE PURPOSE FOR HOMEWORK

- Reinforce or review skills learned at school.
- Promote positive attitudes toward learning.
- Encourage and develop responsibility.
- Provide a regular opportunity for reading.
- Give parents the opportunity to interact with their children and show them that they value education.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Make homework a priority! Involve children in reviewing their evening schedule (which always includes homework) and help them to make appropriate choices between the menu of other activities!
- Decide with your child on an agreeable time and place, free of distractions, to do homework daily.
- Be available to reassure, guide and support your child.
- Model for your child what it means to be committed to task.
- Alert the teacher if your child appears frustrated doing homework.
- Monitor the time spent and quality of TV viewing.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is where the routine for having homework for now and future years is established. Homework for kindergartners is found on their monthly calendar. "Show and Tell" is considered homework because the child will need to decide what he/she would like to bring to school to share and what can be discussed about the object brought in for the day. Sometimes a child only likes to "tell" and that's fine, but the child still needs to give some thought to what will be discussed.

Homework is used as a way to reinforce what is learned in class. Parents can use homework as a time to discuss with their children what they have learned in class and apply it to something at home.

Spend 5-10 minutes a night on review or other calendar related activities and at least 10 minutes for reading. It is very important for parents to read to their child. It is equally important for the child to read to the parents.

FIRST GRADE

"Family Homework" in first grade is designed to involve parents and children in a shared learning experience. The assignments are to stimulate parent/child interaction in the development of language and math. Math assignments, reading log and the occasional special project are sent home on Mondays. Homework is due on Friday, reading logs can come in on Friday or Monday. During the second half of the year students transition into more independent work with continued parent guidance.

We ask parents to think of this time as one to talk about and celebrate your child's learning. The homework is a review of what we have worked on in class. Parents can model their own "homework" by sitting down with their child while he/she is doing homework and pay bills, make lists or complete paperwork from their jobs. When children see that homework is a lifelong necessity then they may have a better attitude towards the whole idea of homework. Approximately 5-10 minutes a night should be set aside for this learning. An additional 10-15 minutes a night is suggested for a family member to share a storybook, news article, poetry, etc.

SECOND GRADE

Children are encouraged to devote approximately 15-20 minutes toward learning activities identified by the teacher. Reading provides an opportunity to practice reading strategies that are being learned in school. Children should read at least 15 minutes. Parents should spend part of this block of time reading aloud to their child and part of the time listening to their child read.

At the beginning of each month the students are given a homework calendar outlining their assignments for each day. Each day follows a pattern:

Monday: Word Study and Read for 15 minutes

Tuesday: Math facts & Read for 15 minutes

Wednesday: Evaluation of Reading & Read for 15 minutes

Thursday: Math worksheet & Read for 15 minutes

Our expectations for homework are as follows:

- Students must read EVERY NIGHT for at least 15 minutes.
- Students will complete nightly assignments independently. Parents will check over work completed and assist the student with any difficult areas.
- If a student is struggling with an assignment the parent or student will write on the paper what is hard for them, so the teacher can then reteach the concept to the student.

THIRD GRADE

Homework activities may include math, reading, writing, word study, and/or special projects. Children will spend approximately 30-45 minutes per night on homework.

To encourage and sustain the habit of reading, third graders need to be engaged in reading activities for 20 minutes at the beginning of the school year. Increase the time to 30 minutes per night by the end of the year.

Children should spend some of this time reading silently or reading to an adult. Continue to read aloud to your child and engage in conversation about what is read.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: HOMEWORK

1. How involved should parents be in their child's homework?

Gr. K In Kindergarten, parents should sit with their child while they are doing homework. Parents can assist, but let the child try to do their own work. If their child is having difficulty, the parents can write a quick note.

Gr. 1 Parents should be aware of and actively involved in their child's homework. Parents need to discuss the assignment, ask questions and answer questions. Yes, corrections should be made at home ... immediate feedback is important.

Gr. 2 Most children do require parents nearby giving support as needed and guiding the process. This gives parent and child a chance to share some time together.

Some homework by design is for family participation, like a math game or calculator activity. Parents should check homework, identify errors with the child and assist with corrections if necessary. Most times children can correct errors unassisted and should be encouraged to do so.

Gr. 3 Parents should begin helping by assisting the child establish a daily routine for written work and reading. A designated time and place should be agreed on. Then it becomes the child's responsibility.

Homework is usually a review of classwork, but some children may need assistance from their parents.

Parents should have their child show them their completed homework and praise them for being responsible.

2. If my child is having difficulty with a particular assignment, explain what a parent's role should be?

Gr. K If a child is having difficulty with an assignment, the child could ask their parent to review, but again let the child do as much as they can on their own.

Gr. 1 If an assignment is not clear to a student or parent, wait one day and send a note or call the teacher. This holds true for difficult assignments as well. Contact the teacher if your child experiences frustration.

Gr. 2 Parents should check homework and send a note to teacher if child had a very hard time with it even after a parent has spent time re-explaining it.

Gr. 3 Begin by asking the child to tell you what they remember to do and how to do it. Then help them understand by working with them to clarify misunderstandings.

Since the purpose of homework is practice, it's important they practice it correctly. Therefore, parents should check the homework and determine if their child understands the concept. Encourage them to correct careless errors.

When your child has great difficulty and is frustrated, please inform the teacher that you feel they need more instruction at school.

3. If my child refuses to do his/her homework what should I do as a parent?

Gr. K Homework is the responsibility of the child. The Kindergarten child should be asking their parents each night what they are supposed to prepare for the following day. If the child refuses to do the homework, then the child will have to use their free

time to complete the homework. If homework is forgotten at home, it is important that the child bring it back to school the following day.

Parents need to find a quiet place for their child to do homework. Parents should be positive and encouraging.

- Gr. 1 Ask your child why he/she refuses to do the homework. Ask him/her how you can help them out. Try to identify what the problem is. Think up solutions together. Contact the teacher before school to explain the homework problem. This can be accomplished by a note or phone call.

Parents need to be aware of the reading ability level of their child so that their expectations are not higher than the child's reading ability. If a child refuses to read at home, set up a three way conference between parent, child and teacher to discuss strategies for reading together at home.

- Gr. 2 Second graders are generally excited about their homework. Parents should reinforce the expectation from school that homework's not optional. Set a time and place for homework and stick to it.

You may need to vary your approach with your child if homework completion becomes a problem. Don't make homework a solitary activity. Children at this age enjoy company and positive reinforcement and interactions are very appropriate.

- Gr. 3 When parents show they value the responsibility of homework, the children assumes it is important. Homework will not become a conflict if the parents and children value its importance, and establish the routine together and set consequences for irresponsibility. There is a consequence at school when homework is not returned on time.

4. What if my child refuses to read at home?

Gr. 2 Reading at home is a very integral part of reading development. Make reading a time your child looks forward to and enjoys. Take turns reading. If your child is reluctant to read out loud to you, you might have them practice alone until they feel confident with the story. 20 minutes each night should be spent on reading.

Gr. 3 Reading should be an enjoyable daily habit. Children increase their skill levels through daily reading at home. Independent reading would be at a child's comfort level. Parents can further develop vocabulary and comprehension when they read aloud to their children.

When children refuse to read at home, explore and enjoy books together, which shows you value reading.