

# Tips for Helping Your Children Study at Home



**Having a quiet time and place to do homework is an important part of every child's education. Follow these tips to make learning at home fun and productive!**

**Designate specific areas for homework and studying.** Possibilities include the child's room or the kitchen or dining room table. Eliminate as much distraction as possible. Many young people study in their own rooms, but most desks for young people really don't have sufficient space to spread out materials. A table that allows for all necessary supplies such as pencils, pens, paper, books, and other essentials works extremely well. Keeping general supplies on hand is important. Check with your child about his or her needs. In fact, make it his or her responsibility to be well supplied with paper, pencils, note pads, notebook paper, etc.

**Turn off the TV set.** Make a house rule, depending on the location of the set, that when it is study time, it is "no TV" time. A television set will draw youngsters like bees to honey. Even hearing it is very distracting.

**What about the radio?** Some children do seem to study all right with the radio playing music they like.

**Regularity is important for quality learning.** Try to serve dinner at a regular time, and once dinner and family discussions are over, it's time to crack the books. If the student doesn't have other commitments and gets home reasonably early from school, some homework can be done before supper.

**Consider your child's maturity when setting the amount of time for homework.** While high school students can focus for over an hour without a break, first-graders are unlikely to last more than 15 minutes on a single task. Allow your child to take breaks, perhaps as a reward for finishing a section of the work.

**A home dictionary is essential.** Keep it in an accessible place and let your child see you refer to it from time to time. If the family dictionary is kept in the living room and the child studies in his or her room, get an inexpensive dictionary for his or her exclusive use.

## **Should parents help with homework?**

**Yes** – if it is clearly helpful to do so, such as calling out spelling words, helping to understand a story, reviewing for a test, or checking a math problem.

**No** –if it is something the child can clearly handle and learn from the process. Help and support should always be calm and cheerful. Read directions or check over math problems after your child has completed the work. Remember to make positive comments - you want your child to think homework is fun!



Adapted from [www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/studytips.shtml](http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/studytips.shtml) by Tacoma Housing Authority 8/13/2010

