

Helping with Homework and Study

Guide your child to do their homework using these tried and tested questions.

Assignments:

Ask your son or daughter:

- How much time they think they'll have to do the assignment.
- When the assignment's due.
- Where they think they'll start.
- What form of work is required (eg story, oral presentation, PowerPoint presentation, poster or brochure).
- How they can organise their research.
- What online research they have done or thought about.

Oral Presentations:

Ask your son or daughter:

- To read through the task together to get a sense of what needs to be done.
- What research they have done so far.
- To rehearse it together – practise in front of a mirror, record it and listen back or rehearse in front of family members.
- How they can change their voice to make some points sound important.
- If they have thought about using music or film or handouts or anything else to make the presentation stronger.
- If they have to submit the written version as well as the spoken one. How do they think they will present it?

Remembering What They've Read:

Ask your son or daughter:

- What they are reading it for.
- To write down a couple of words after reading each paragraph – it will help if they need to give a summary.
- To try writing a mind map, if they need to read and remember the information for a test.



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Keep Up with Assignments and Assessment Tasks:

- Mark key dates on a calendar
- Make an assignment schedule for each week.
- Make daily and weekly 'to-do' lists.

Review Class Work Each Day:

- Keep a notepad handy while reading to make notes or reminders.
- Create flash cards of main ideas or key points (with details on the back).
- Make up study questions to test learning.

Take Breaks while Studying:

- Your child will focus more if they're not tired.
- Suggest to your child that they stand up after 20 minutes and walk around the room (while thinking about the topic).
- Tell your child to take a complete five-minute break every 40 minutes.

Good study approaches for your child to use:

- Make a summary of the main ideas.
- Use organisers such as columns, lists or tables and colour-coded folders for different areas of the subject.
- Draw a diagram, or mind map, to show main ideas and links between them.
- Use headings, subheadings, underlining or bold-face when making notes.
- Create a list of key terms.
- Paraphrase a difficult passage using simpler words.
- Cover a paragraph, diagram or page and say aloud what it was about or write some brief notes.