

STUDY SKILL TECHNIQUES

QUESTION: What tips can I give my child on improving study skills?

ANSWER: Good study skills allow a student to learn materials and retain information for a longer period of time. Children need to learn to set goals, organize their time, and work independently during study time. They also need to be taught specific study skills for the material being learned.

Parents can make a difference by encouraging the following study guidelines.

1. Students need a plan of attack. Homework should become a habit with specific goals for each study session.
2. Keep track of assignments. Students should write down all assignments along with their due dates.
3. Establish a time schedule which includes time for homework and other activities.
4. Make sure the home environment is conducive to studying. A child needs a quiet place to study that is free from distractions.

Specific study skill techniques for reading textbooks which children can be taught at home include:

- * Scan material before reading; pick out the main points.
- * Establish a purpose for reading.
- * Take notes on material read at home.
- * Look at pictures, graphs, maps, etc. Read captions or information featured with illustrations.
- * Answer questions at the end of the chapter.
- * Use a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words.
- * Pay close attention to summary paragraphs.
- * Note all sample problems or solutions,
- * Read textbooks for specific information.
- * Re-check assignments before turning them in.
- * Learn to question and compare while reading.
- * Discuss what has been read with a parent or friend.
- * If you do not understand what has been read, ask questions.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

QUESTION: What is the best way to help my child with homework?

ANSWER: Homework is a very important aspect of a child's education. It provides practice for the skills taught in the classroom. Homework also teaches children self-discipline and responsibility.

Parents play an important role in encouraging children to complete homework. Parents can help in the following ways:

- * Provide a quiet place to study where distractions are kept to a minimum.
- * Keep necessary items on hand. Make sure paper, pencils, and a dictionary are available.
- * Establish a specific time period each day for homework. This time period may vary from day to day depending upon family activities.
- * Encourage your child to keep the T.V. and radio off during study time.
- * Check daily to see if your child has homework.
- * If homework has been assigned in more than one subject, help your child set up a study schedule.
- * Be available to answer questions while your child is completing homework.
- * Encourage neatness and punctuality in completing homework.
- * Review directions with your child as necessary.
- * Check periodically to see if your child is completing his/her homework correctly.
- * Encourage your child to ask the teacher if he/she is not sure of the assignment or how to do the work.
- * Be positive about homework. If a parent complains about the amount of time spent on homework or about the job that is being done, the child will become discouraged.
- * Help your child review for quizzes and tests. Children should study for tests over a period of days rather than just the night before.
- * If your child suddenly stops bringing home work, or has more work than usual, check with the teacher.

The parent provides valuable support in helping children get the most out of their homework. Become involved in the homework habit.