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*Listening, learning,
and living together:
it's the science of life.*

Homework¹

Diana Converse²

Homework is an important part of your children's education, according to the National Education Association. Meaningful homework can help students do better in school, especially as they get into the upper grades. Homework teaches children responsibility, as well as how to follow directions, manage time, begin and complete a task, work on their own, and practice what they're learning in class. However, most children would much rather be playing or doing other things than homework. Many parents and children struggle over when, where, and how homework will be done.

At times parents may feel that it would be easier just to do the work for their children. However, the National Parent and Teacher Association advises parents to let children do homework themselves. You may need to sit with elementary-school-age children and walk them through the process of how to study, help them organize the materials they need, and make sure they've completed all their tasks. As you do this, you are laying the foundation for good study habits.

Parents can offer to help check homework, but helping is very different from taking over. You can also reinforce good habits by helping your child find a regular place to work and a regular time of day to do homework. Instead of asking if your child has

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homework every night, always assume that there is homework, reading or studying of some kind to be done.

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