

What You Can Do To Help Your Child With Math Homework This Year

(Taken from Math Homework That Counts, Annette Raphael)

1. Help your child relax by putting homework in perspective.
2. Talk about rules and procedures for doing homework right away.
3. Identify a good place to do homework.
4. Help prioritize tasks.
5. Check in once or twice to ask what's left to do and how much time there is to do it.
6. Model how to handle frustration by being calm and reasonable and by helping your child see that strategies and problem solving are as valuable in real life as they are in math class.
7. Give help when it is needed. The best help is that with organization or focus.
8. Help your child refocus when he or she becomes distracted.
9. Set time limits – it is often better to be in bed at a decent hour than to have masterfully done homework and be too tired to pay attention the following day.
10. Verbalize how to get started so that your child becomes independent.
11. Allow your child autonomy in figuring out when and in what order to do assignments.
12. Communicate with your child's teacher when things are not going well to find out whether both of you see the problem the same way.
13. Point out the nonessential elements (spending too much time on a cover, for example).
14. Motivate by praising, reassuring, challenging, personalizing, or editorializing.
15. Figure out when and if taking a break is a good idea.
16. Have your child write a note to the teacher if there is something that should be shared about the way homework is going.
17. Don't let homework interfere with your relationship with your child. This is not meant to be a confrontational experience.