

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The following suggestions are for parents to use in enriching their child's learning experiences outside of school:

- Read aloud to your child and listen when he/she reads to you. Set a good example. Let your child see you enjoying quiet reading.
- Take your child to the library as often as possible and help her/him choose books.
- Have your child write letters to relatives and write notes to you. You might respond by writing a note to him/her.
- Encourage conversations between you and your child.
- Have your child practice proper telephone conversation.
- Practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts with your child.
- While shopping, have your child help estimate the cost of items on your shopping list.
- Have your child practice making change from purchases.
- Suggest that your child keep a journal.

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Homework Guidelines for Elementary Schools Grades K-8

What Is Homework?

Homework is an important part of a child's school program. When homework is assigned, it should be related to what is being studied in school. The purposes of homework are:

- To practice and apply the skills being taught in the classroom.
- To make up or review classroom work which the pupil has missed.
- To participate in activities that further challenge the abilities of the pupil.
- To encourage the early development of good study habits.

What Are the Teacher's Responsibilities?

When making homework assignments, teachers should keep the following principles in mind:

1. Homework is an independent activity to reinforce learning after the teacher has checked for understanding.
2. The child should understand the assignment and how to do it.
3. The assignment should be defined and related to planned classroom activities.
4. Homework should be within the ability of the child to accomplish successfully.
5. The work should never be assigned as a punishment.
6. Assignments will be checked, graded or reviewed.
7. Generally, homework should not be assigned over weekends and holidays.
8. When homework is assigned, the teacher will usually suggest the average time necessary to complete it.

Daily homework should adhere to the guidelines listed below:

K	20 minutes
1-3	30 minutes
4-6	60 minutes
7-8	120 minutes

In a departmentalized program, teachers should plan together to achieve consistency in the above guidelines.

What Are the Parent's Responsibilities?

Parents can help the child make the best use of the time which is spent on home study by following these suggestions:

- Take an active interest in what the child is doing by asking "What did you learn today?"
- Provide a comfortable, quiet, well-lit place to do homework.
- Arrange an appropriate time for study.
- Give encouragement, but do not do the work for the child.
- Give personal supervision where it is needed.
- Confer with the teacher if the child needs special help.
- Turn off the television, radio, computer games and cell phones during homework time.
- Set up a system at home that ensures your child's work gets to and from school.