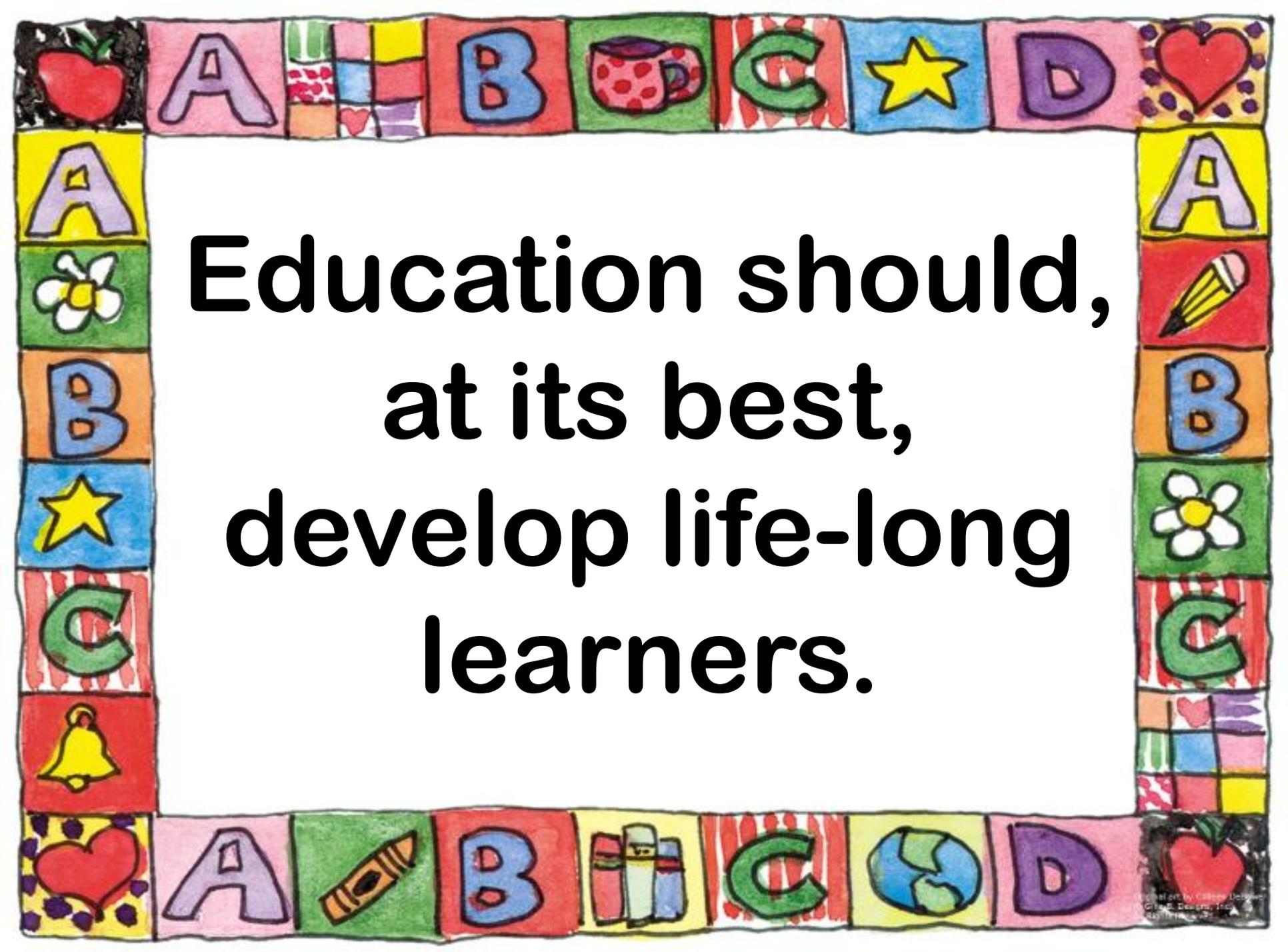


# Homework Tips for Parents

By Patti Daigle-Brown



**Education should,  
at its best,  
develop life-long  
learners.**

# Help your child get ready for the new school year by preparing at home.



Have an agreed upon quiet place for homework to be done. This place should allow you to be near so you can be available without hovering.



Be sure that the lighting is sufficient.



Set a specific time for homework to start.



Don't schedule other activities, especially with other siblings, during homework time.



Have a desk or table and chair at the correct size for your child.



Have a store of homework supplies: loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, crayons, erasers, markers, scissors, rulers, tape, glue, blank paper, pencil sharpener, index cards, stapler, paper clips.

# Make homework an important task.



Homework is at least as important as sports, eating out, going to a movie, or having a play date.



Both teachers and students pick up on how you feel about homework fairly quickly. It is much easier to be positive from the start than changing a negative attitude to a positive one.



Being too tired is not a valid excuse for your child to skip homework. If your child is too tired he/she may be over-scheduled. Those things should go before homework does.



Try to make it your child's responsibility for getting started with homework. Try to give no more than one reminder.



“Homework” is a life skill. Do you ever have “homework” to do as a part of your job? Your child might.



# Here are guidelines for parental help with homework:



It is best to help with homework as little as possible.



Please help with directions only if asked.



If you develop a pattern of sitting next to your child while he/she is doing homework, remember that this will be a difficult habit to break.



Ask yourself how long you will continue this pattern. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade? 6<sup>th</sup> grade, high school? A deep-seated habit will be all the more traumatic for those involved to break.



At each grade level, there is a level of student independence to be gained. Hindering this is very problematic in the long run.



Do look over your child's homework BUT please resist the temptation to correct it. A teacher needs to know if a child remembers and understands a topic or skill overnight. Send a note to the teacher instead.



**Homework with all the mistakes fixed give teachers no feedback.**



**In the lower grades homework is primarily designed to develop the habit of working, organizing, and practicing skills and learning content in an independent manner. Please help with this.**



**If your child has no idea how to approach an assignment, again, write a note to the teacher.**



**If homework time is turning into a battlefield at home, let the teacher know at once. Most teachers will help by letting your child experience the consequences of not having homework AT SCHOOL. Homework issues should not ruin evenings. Better that your child have a time-out or some other consequence designed for a particular grade level at school. Remember: Homework is primarily a school issue.**



**Remember that you will not always be there to intercede over homework, nor should you be. Think of that classmate in college who fell apart freshman year because he/she never developed independent school skills.**



**Remember: Never hesitate to write a note or email a teacher with a question or comment. A team effort is important!**



**Refrain from rewarding your child for doing homework as it is an expected activity.**



**You might suggest that your child do the homework they like the least first to get it out of the way.**



**Insist that your child pack his/her backpack at night as soon as homework is completed and set by the front door. This absolutely should be your child's job!**

# Don't complain about homework in front of your child.



If you have a question or problem about homework, email or send a note to the teacher.



If problems persist, meet with the teacher.



Don't hesitate to include an administrator when meeting the teacher for the second or third time.



Most teachers really do want to team with you for the benefit of your child. Complaining about the teacher in front of your child sets a poor example and solves no problems.



Remember: You are not in \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) grade anymore. Step back and team with the teacher. Parents and teachers can and should be natural allies.



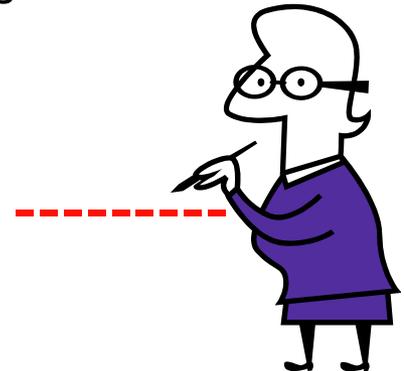
Don't let your own homework flashbacks get the best of you!

# Here are steps for helping with spelling homework:



Your child should:

- ✓ **LOOK:** Look at the word.
- ✓ **SAY:** Say the word softly aloud then repeat silently.
- ✓ **SEE:** Close eyes and picture the word in his/her head.
- ✓ **COMPARE:** Next, your child should open eyes and compare the word picture in his/her head with the written word.
- ✓ **WRITE:** Write the word down on paper without looking back.
- ✓ **CHECK:** Check spelling and writing of the word.
- ✓ **REPEAT:** Repeat only if the word is misspelled.



# Here are more spelling hints.



Since the children are tested in writing it's best to practice writing spelling words. Studying orally in the car on the way to school is not as helpful as you might think.



If studying in the car, use a Magic Slate (dime store toy) or a small dry erase board with markers. These can be kept under the seat. After the word is written down have your child read the spelling of the word aloud. That way you won't have to look while driving!



Point out similar patterns in spelling words. This is done in school and would be a good thing to reinforce at home.



Use colored markers, chalk, etc., to help your child color-code like patterns, vowel sounds, or letter combinations. This helps visual learners.



Have your child say each word aloud and/or make up word songs to sing. This helps auditory learners.



Use a Scrabble game tiles to practice spelling words. This is a tactile approach.



Experience seems to indicate that 3 is the best number of times to practice writing a spelling word unless the teacher gives other directions.



Do not have your child repeatedly study words he/she already knows. If spelling is a challenge for your child, give a pretest each night then study only the words that are missed.



Typing the words might be helpful. This is a visual/tactile approach.



Have your child spell words into a tape recorder then listen. This is an auditory approach.



# Homework hints for ABC order:



Your child might:

- ✓ Use an alphabet strip (like the one at the end of this document).
- ✓ Highlight words with a light-colored marker as they are used.
- ✓ Rewrite the words on a separate piece of paper, cut them out, then glue them on the homework sheet.
- ✓ Should a word be left out, most teachers will allow an arrow with the word in the margin. It is very demoralizing for a child to erase a long list of words.

# Homework hints for arithmetic:



Have a 100 board available for math homework (like the one at the end of this document). You might also try a number line.



It is also a good idea to have addition and subtraction flash cards on hand.



Sooner or later addition and subtraction facts through 18 will have to be memorized. A good idea is to flash the card then count to 5, 3 if your child is older. Put the cards of the correctly answered facts in one pile. Put the ones missed in another pile. Only study the missed pile facts. Once again, it doesn't do to practice what you already know.



Your child should not have time to count. This is a case where rote memory skills are important.



Some children learn “touch points.” While this might seem a step in the right direction, it is the same as counting with fingers. Remember, we all count with our fingers occasionally, even if it is just to decide how many people have shown up to eat dinner.



The more important task is to develop number sense.



**Number sense is the key to understand the language of numbers. You can do this in many ways not directly related to homework.**



**For example,**



**Teach the meanings of the words more and less.**



**Find opportunities to have your child count money (coins).**



**Let your child help when estimating... for recipe ingredients, to decide if you need more chairs for all of your guests, to decide if you have enough money to buy something special, to see if you have enough wrapping paper to wrap all the Christmas presents, or if there is enough dog food to last until the end of the week, etc.**



**You might also keep a family calendar of events and discuss how many days away an event might be as you cross off the days, etc.**



**Help your child read a map if the situation presents itself.**



**We spend a lot of time with reading skills but developing number sense is just as important.**

# Here are guidelines for parental help with reading:



Have your child read aloud to you every night.



Ask your child to tell you in his/her own words what happened in a story. This is extremely important for the development of your child's reading skills.



To check your child's understanding of what he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.



Continue to read to your child before bed.



Discuss movie plots to see if your child is understanding plot lines and character development.



Encourage your child to read everything: signs, menus, advertisements, junk mail, catalog descriptions, etc.

# Here are hints for projects.



Even 1<sup>st</sup> graders may be required to complete a long term project like a monthly book report.



Help by using a calendar to mark the due date and goals in between.



This is the perfect opportunity to model good study skills by planning with your child how and when the project is to be completed.



Refrain from doing the work for your child.



Follow the teacher guidelines so as to avoid making the task too difficult for your child.



Doing your child's work for him/her undermines his/her success and makes him/her feel unable in your eyes. This is a poor lesson.



Teachers, along with everyone else, know when a project is parent-done. This is an embarrassment for all.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

**a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z**

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z



**Please do not hesitate to get in touch with questions or problems.**



**Please look over my items that are for sale.**



**Please let me know if there is something that I might create for you for a nominal fee or for free.**

**Thanks, Patti**



**Patti Daigle-Brown**

**<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Educational-Insights-Today>**



**You can also follow me on Pinterest:**

**<http://pinterest.com/buckie74/>**