

## HELPING YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLAGED CHILD WITH HOMEWORK

Homework is your child's responsibility, so you should just stay out of the way, right? Not necessarily so. With a little support from you, homework can be a positive experience for your child, an experience that enriches learning, reinforces daily classroom lessons and fosters lifelong organizational skills.

Homework is important because it is one of the first ways that your child develops a sense of responsibility for completing their own work. It can also teach children essential skills they need to succeed in school and future jobs. They will learn to read and follow directions independently. They will also learn to manage and budget time as well as learning to complete work neatly and to the best of their ability.

Here are six ways you can help your child with homework.

- 1) **Create a good workspace and set a daily regular time every day to do homework.** The house should be quiet and you should have free time to work with your child. Make sure the child's workspace is comfortable, well-lit, quiet and free from distractions (turn the TV off!) and well-stocked with the necessary school supplies. The amount of time your child spends on homework depends on their grade level.  
K-Grade 2: 10-20 minutes/day  
Grade 3-6: 30-60 minutes/day  
Grade 7 and up – increases each year and may vary from day to day
- 2) **Ask about homework.** Ask your child what they have to do for homework each night. You should also ask if they understand what they are supposed to do. If they don't understand, work on some examples together.
- 3) **Talk with your child's teachers regularly.** Ask teachers about classes and what your child is studying. Ask for advice on how you can support your child's learning at home.
- 4) **Don't do your child's homework!** Help your child do their own work. Make sure they understand the directions, help with a couple of examples and then check the work that they do on their own. Remember that a primary goal of homework is to build responsibility. Here, your role as a parent is a supporting one – encouraging your child to think, evaluate, and respond on his or her own.
- 5) **Praise your child when he or she gets the right answers.** If your child makes mistakes, help correct them. It's important to help your child feel good about learning – and that they know that making mistakes is part of the process.
- 6) **Teach your child research skills.** Make sure that your household library contains research tools such as a dictionary, a thesaurus and a general knowledge encyclopedia. Encourage your child to consult these books as needed.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Grand Forks Public Library have partnered to bring you THE HOMEWORK CLUB every Wednesday between Feb. 21st and March 14<sup>th</sup> and then April 4<sup>th</sup>-May 9<sup>th</sup>. This club is open to all elementary students, grades 1-7 and will take place in the Library meeting room from 3:45-4:45. This is a free drop-in program, registrations are appreciated but not required. Late-comers will be welcome and a healthy snack will be served. Let two of Grand Forks Public library staff

help you learn research skills and anything else that might make your schoolwork easier and more fun. Games and prizes will be part of the program.

For more information or to volunteer for literacy events or programs, please contact Lizanne Eastwood – Family Literacy Coordinator for Grand Forks and the West Boundary – Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy @ 442-2533 or [leastwood@thehub.literacy.bc.ca](mailto:leastwood@thehub.literacy.bc.ca)