

Parents and homework

Tips to keep "helping out" from becoming "taking over"

You can make a big difference in your children's education when you help them with their homework. But a lot of parents ask "How much help is too much?" You can quickly find yourself not just helping out – but actually doing the work for them. (And you won't hear any protests from your child along the way.)

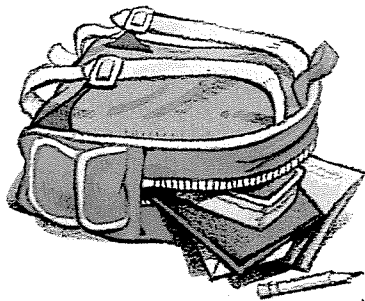
HERE ARE SOME HINTS FOR DRAWING THE LINE

- Remember your roles, and make sure your child understands them. Your child is the thinker and the doer; you're the coach.

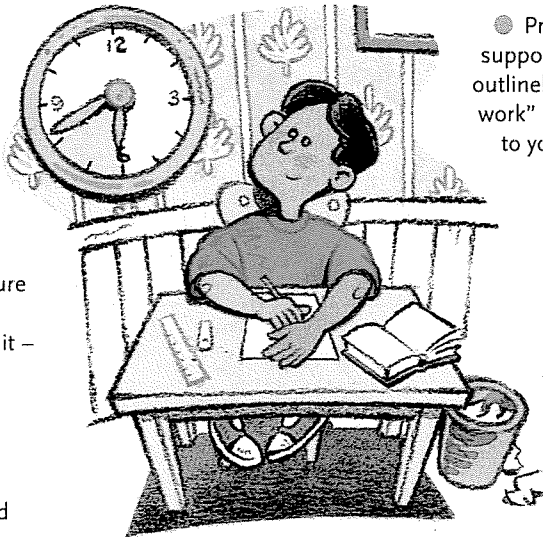
- Set a regular time for homework. And make sure your child has a quiet, comfortable place to do it – somewhere free from siblings, TV and other distractions.

- Start by asking your child to define the homework assignment in their own words. That can help ensure you're both working toward the same goal. More

important, it helps your child to focus their mind on exactly what does and doesn't need to be done.



- If your child is having trouble understanding the assignment, you can try questions like, "Did the teacher give any examples?" Or, "Is there another student in the class who could help you understand how to do this?"



- Provide lots of praise and support. Hearing "That's a great outline!" and "This is really good work" makes a world of difference to your child.

- Talk to your child's teacher. They may have suggestions for the best ways to help your child along. And you can help resolve any problems your child might be having.

