



# Good Study Habits and Homework

Every parent wants their child to do well in school and to learn as much as they possibly can. To be good students children need to develop good study habits at home and at school. You can help develop good study habits at home by approaching homework with a positive attitude and by providing an atmosphere that encourages learning. Here are some ideas that can help!

## Set A Homework Schedule

Set up a regular time for homework to be done each day and stick to it. Expect homework and plan it into the daily routine, just like meals, sleep, and recreation. Plan the time that best suits the child. Some children may work best in the afternoon when they get home from school, while others may need to unwind first.

## Provide An Appropriate Place To Study

Choose a place that is quiet and free from distractions such as TV, radio, and other family activities, if possible. Make sure there is good lighting. Provide a desk or table with a comfortable chair for your child. The kitchen table will work if other family members agree to stay out of the room during study time.

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## Keep Basic Study Supplies Handy

Store needed items such as pencils, pencil sharpener, glue, erasers, markers, scissors and paper near the study area. It is easier and faster to do an assignment when every thing is at hand. A basket or shoe box can be decorated to store these items.

## Help Your Child Keep Track of Assignments and Projects

At the first grade level, the teacher will usually send home some type of printed daily or weekly homework assignment sheet to let you know what work your child is to do. Be sure to find out from the teacher how and when this information will be provided to you. Be sure to check the backpack every day and read any messages or papers sent home by the teacher.

## Other Ideas!

- Help your child with homework when needed, but do not do it for him/her. The child only learns when he/she does the work.
- Check over all homework and have your child correct any mistakes. Turn mistakes into positive learning opportunities!
- Encourage your child to always do their best. Praise all papers and projects brought home! Display them in a special place for all to see!

## Keeping Minds and Hands Busy

As the weather gets cooler, gather ideas and supplies for inside activities that will keep your child's hands and mind busy so the "I'm Bored" syndrome does not set in. The activity provided below will be fun for you and your child to do together and can be made from items that you already have around the house.

### Homemade Bird Feeder

In the wintertime, birds like to eat fatty foods like peanut butter and suet (hard animal fat).

These foods help make their bodies warm.

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- a pine cone
- strong string or yarn
- peanut butter
- pieces of suet (suet is hard animal fat and may be found in the grocery store meat counter)
- bird seed
- plastic mesh bag (like potatoes come in)



#### WHAT TO DO:

Mix a little bird seed with the peanut butter in a small bowl.

Stuff it between the "petals" of the pine cone.

Hang it by a string on a tree in the backyard that you can see from your window.

#### Or

Place pieces of suet in a plastic mesh bag and hang it from a string on a tree. (Bird feeders can also be made cutting out a large opening in plastic liter pop bottle or any size milk jug. Hang from a tree branch with a strong string and keep a supply of bird seed in the bottom of the bottle or jug.)

You and your child can watch the birds eat and chirp "thank you"! Help him/her keep a record of the different types of birds that come to eat at the feeder. See how many you can identify together. Note the color of each. Make a trip to the library and check out a book to learn more about birds or to help you in identifying them.

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