

Is Homework Important?

You bet it is!

We know that homework reinforces what a child has learned at school during the day, but homework also serves another useful purpose: it teaches a student responsibility and organizational skills and is a vital link between parent and teacher.

Sharon Klar of Montreal has given many study skills workshops to students. She believes that responsibility plus organization equals success—in school, at work, and in life.

Klar has taught children when to study, how to study, and what to study. She has sometimes used a sports metaphor to make her point. “What would happen,” she has asked the hockey players in her audience, “if you packed all your equipment for a game, but forgot just the skates?”

She has also provided students with practical strategies, like the three-checkmark system. Here is how it works:

At School:

- ✓ Write all of your homework in your agenda or homework notebook;
- ✓ After each subject draw 3 boxes
- ✓ Make a check in the first box when the correct material is placed in the school bag.
- ✓ The last item into your schoolbag is to be your agenda.

At Home:

- ✓ The first item out of your schoolbag is your agenda.
- ✓ Once you finish each subject, you make a check in the second box.
- ✓ You make a check in the third box when you put the completed work back in your schoolbag.
- ✓ The last item into your schoolbag will be your agenda or a homework notebook.



The teacher's job is to ensure every child has written down all of his homework correctly from the board, and to provide a homework buddy.

The parent's job is to provide a clear, quiet workspace for the child, with a box of tools (pencils, glue, etc.) and to sign off, knowledgeably, on the agenda each night.

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