

Tips for Student Achievement

Hassle-Free Homework

1. Don't banish your child to his room to study alone. If he prefers, let him work in the same room with you, while you read or do chores.
2. Suggest that your child start on the toughest subject first, while his energy level is high. It is usually more successful than starting with an easy task.
3. It is a big mistake to do your child's homework for him. Take the extra time to explain how he can do it instead. That way, he will learn from both the successes and mistakes.

Sticking with It

4. Teach your child how to talk to herself positively when concentration lags. Instead of, "I'll never finish this chapter," the thought might be "Only 6 more pages to go - I can make it."
5. Suggest a 5-10 minute activity break before your child tires of studying. Arm-wrestling or a run in the backyard will clear the head and help learning sink in.
6. Encourage your child to respect deadlines - she will have to cope with them throughout her life. Use rewards (not bribes) when appropriate. If she finishes on time, play a favorite game.

Make the Most of Reading

7. Have your child silently preview material before he begins reading the text. Notice headings, introductions, summaries, review questions, and charts.
8. Teach your child to use the diagramming technique. Chart the main idea in the passage and supporting details as the hub and spokes of a wheel.
9. Teach your child to use memory tricks. Look together for ways to associate the unknown with the known. For instance, the initials for the Great Lakes spells HOMES (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior).

