

TIPS FOR HELPING WITH THE “H” WORD: HOMEWORK!

Read the homework instructions together. Make sure that you both understand the instructions. If possible, break an assignment into smaller pieces to help students focus.

Build on prior knowledge. Ask students to tell you what they know about the subject. Ask them to predict the content of the text by looking at key words or headings. As you continue to work together, fill in any gaps in your students’ knowledge about the subject.

Read the text with your student. Make sure that students are able to concentrate on the meaning of the text and that they are not bogged down by jargon or complicated words. Talk about the text. Encourage students to think aloud and ask questions about what they have read.

Discuss the text. Discuss key points that relate to the homework instructions. Help students organize their thoughts verbally or on paper. Give students time to think through an answer, but give them help if they seem stuck.

Work together to complete the homework. No one knows all the answers! Being unsure of an answer or how to proceed provides an opportunity to show students how to work through a problem.

Help with the writing process. After students have written an answer to a question, encourage them to edit and proofread their writing for spelling and grammar.

GETTING ORGANIZED

Getting organized is a big part of completing homework. Talk with students about study and planning strategies, and encourage them to figure out what ones will work for them. You can suggest:

- they use school planners or wall calendars to write down tests and deadlines
- they think about what assignments need research or preparation
- they prioritize. What needs to be completed right away and what can wait?
- they make lists of what needs to be researched, read or completed

Other homework tips:

- Pick a quiet, well-lit place to work. Turn off the TV and other distractions.
- Do homework at the same time every day. Tell your family that this “homework time”
- Before you start, make sure you have all the tools (pens, paper, dictionary, etc.) nearby.
- Eat a nutritious snack before working. Avoid junk food.
- Do the most difficult homework first.
- Give yourself a specific amount time to complete the homework.
- Reward yourself with short breaks.

It can be tempting to supply or correct answers for your student. Instead of doing it for them, ensure students have the information and tools they need to understand their work and find the answers. Then they will succeed on their own!

Allow students to complete assignments on their own. Don't change words as students write them down: if you need to spell a word or explain a concept on paper, use a separate piece of paper. You are a facilitator for your students' learning: *the more students do on their own, the more they will learn!*