

Homework/Study Skills

Encourage your child to get back on track with homework

Your child has already been hard at work in middle school for at least six months. This is the time that many kids start to slack off--encouraged by the end of winter weather. Your child may resist homework, make excuses or just not do it.

To keep your child engaged:

- Remind him to manage his time. If he seems to have too much homework, he may be putting too many assignments off to the last minute. Help him make a weekly planner for his homework.
- Remember the words of former President Ronald Reagan--"Trust, but verify." This is what you should do if your child comes home day after day saying he has no homework! Check the school's online homework bulletin board, if there is one. Otherwise, get in touch with his teachers. Let your child know you understand that homework isn't his first choice. But school is his job, and the homework must get done.
- Check to see if your child has fallen behind with organization. This is a top reason for missed assignments and lower grades in middle school. Find out how he is tracking assignments. What is his method for keeping papers in his binder? If you get a blank stare, or an argument, have a frank talk. Be sympathetic, but emphasize how much organization helps. Offer to help him brainstorm some ideas for staying organized.

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