

NO MORE HOMEWORK BATTLES

Six Tips For Helping Kids Fall in Love With Learning

Battles over reading, writing, and arithmetic too often drive a wedge between parents and their kids. Many times these ongoing conflicts give youngsters a distaste for learning and send parents to bed at night wondering, "What are we doing wrong with this kid?"

The following tips are dedicated to creating happier homes, where children are free to fall in love with learning and parents no longer dread homework hassles:

Tip #1: Each evening, set aside a time for family learning.

This is a time for your children to do their homework and for you to model the value of learning by enjoying a book. The best way to create a love of learning in your kids is to show them how much you enjoy it.

Tip #2: Avoid battles by offering choices.

Research shows children are more likely to do their homework if they are given many small choices. For example:

- *Would you rather do your homework right after school or wait until four o'clock?*
- *Are you going to do your homework in your room or at the kitchen table?*
- *Are you going to do all your homework right now, or are you going to do half now and the rest after dinner?*

Tip #3: Help only when your child really wants it.

There is nothing that creates more homework battles than parents who "help" when help is not wanted. Try asking:

Would you like some ideas on that, or would you like me to leave you alone?

Your child's desire to do it alone is a very healthy sign of independence and responsibility.

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