

A Homework Routine

One of the most important factors in determining your student's performance in school is his homework routine. What happens in the hours after school can be just as important as what happens inside the classroom, and parents are responsible for making sure this time is as productive, encouraging and distraction-free as possible.

If you fail to set routines and expectations from an early age, it can be difficult for students to complete their homework in an efficient manner. This can lead to late assignments and poor grades.

Fortunately, putting together a clear homework schedule isn't as difficult as it may sound. It all starts with carving out some time in the after-school schedule. Work with your student early in the school year to make sure you have a clear understanding of her extracurricular schedule, as well as what the homework requirements for the various classes will be. This can help you devise a schedule and strategy that leads to on-time homework completion.

KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES

A study by the Bett Educational Technology Tradeshow found that in one in six families, parents do all of their child's homework. This is unacceptable behavior for many reasons, most notably the fact that the student is short-changed from actually learning the subject matter.

As parents, we must help our children develop the ability to complete homework independently. If your child is in the younger grades, help may be needed in checking home-



work and making sure it is completed, but try to separate yourself from the processes that require critical thinking and self-study unless your child is having difficulty overcoming a particular part of the assignment. Even then, offer

your guidance in a strategic way that encourages your child to come up with the answers independently.

TAKING BREAKS

Doing homework isn't always the most enjoyable

experience, especially after your little brainiac has spent the entire day at school. If frustration ensues, make sure to encourage short breaks.

Taking a breather for a short walk or snack may help your child re-focus and get back to

work.

Keep the snacks healthy and light, and try to make the breaks relatively short. You don't want your child to lose momentum on an assignment or forget where he was in the process.