

How to Help Your Child At Home – PTO Meeting – March 5, 2020

Kindergarten:

1. Help your child become independent by encouraging and expecting them to do self-help skills such as tying shoes. When kids have responsibility at home they also become a responsible student. Simple chores like setting or clearing the table empower kids and help them become empathetic to the work that others are doing!
2. Read to and with them and talk about it! The conversation around what you read is equally important and valuable as the act of reading. Using the 5W's (who, what, where, when, why? in the conversation helps check for their comprehension, as well as teaching them to check for their understanding when reading independently. Ask questions such as: Who is the story/text about? Where is the character in the story/text? What's happening to/around the main character? When did the story/event take place? Why did that happen? The act of reading and talking about what's being read is perfect for both bonding and comprehension checks. Plus, it builds a greater tolerance and love for reading and thinking about reading!
3. Set up a consistent and predictable morning and evening routine
4. **Practice, practice, practice** zipping coats, packing and unpacking backpack, putting on shoes, opening and closing lunch/snack containers, etc
5. Ask your child to share a "love or a learn" from their school day
6. Remind your child at drop off what is their lunch selection for the day
7. Set a time every afternoon/evening that is "homework time"
8. Reinforce Second Step or Nora Project lessons/language
9. Check your child's take home folder nightly

First Grade:

1. Read, Read, Read! This can be you reading to your child or your child reading to you.
2. Ask your child about what they are reading. Helps with comprehension and gets them motivated to read.
3. Take your child to the library! Check out fiction and nonfiction books.
4. Make a checklist for your child to help them stay organized or a plan for the week.
5. Use a timer to help students get started right away.
6. Encourage your child to keep a diary or a journal. This will help with their writing and will also help them to express themselves.
7. Set goals with your child. (sight word fluency, single digit fact fluency, pages read, etc.)
8. Allow your child to make mistakes! It's the best way to learn!

9. Schedule a homework/study time to help your child have a weekly/daily routine so they know what is expected.

10. If your child is struggling with a particular task or subject area, reach out to the teacher. Your child's teacher may have tips for you or may also be able to help in creating a plan for your child so that they can be successful

Second Grade:

- 1. Read 20 minutes every night.**
- 2. Ask them a few questions about what they read (especially if they are reading longer books).**
- 3. Practice their word study words in a way that best helps them.**
- 4. Do the weekly math homework, reach out to their teacher if they need help.**
5. Make a daily after school and/or morning checklist - come up with it together so your child has ownership over the list
6. Have your child try their homework on their own, but DO check over it and make corrections together. This is a chance to see what areas are difficult for your child. If you see any patterns of difficulty, reach out to your child's teacher.
7. Even strong readers should be reading aloud to someone occasionally - reading out loud is a different skill that requires practice. This also gives time for meaningful discussion about the text and comprehension work.
8. The library is a great resource - use it when needed to make sure you have current books available at home.
9. Praise effort, not skills.
10. Kids thrive on routines. Set aside a certain time each day for homework and reading.
11. Look through, and clean out, take home folders/binders daily.
12. At the end of the day ask your child: "What went well at school today?"
13. Break large projects into smaller steps and get an early start so it won't be overwhelming.
14. Children learn by example....make sure they can see that you support the school as well as their teacher. :)

Third Grade:

- 1. Read with your child every night and make sure they are reading aloud as much as possible**
- 2. Ask questions about what they are reading (for comprehension checks)**
- 3. Practice math multiplication facts (Multiplication.com , flashcards, etc.)**
- 4. Check your child's math homework and have him/her make corrections (use the third grade math weebly to watch daily math homework videos)**
- 5. Check your child's teacher webpage / blog for updates and to stay informed about what is being taught in your child's classroom**

6. Study weekly spelling words and where / how they should be sorted (especially on Thursday night)
7. Check your child's assignment book every night and encourage your child to use it as a checklist as they complete each piece of homework
8. Help your child with the pacing of all their homework throughout the week so they are budgeting their time properly with other extracurricular activities and family time
9. If your child leaves homework at home, DON'T bring it to school for them!

Fourth Grade:

1. read 20 minutes a night (listen to your child or even read to them)
2. ask questions after reading (main character, character traits, problem and solutions)
3. study spelling words for a few minutes every night
4. math videos (you can google Eureka, module 1, lesson1)
5. weekly writing (help for complete sentences, paragraph form, and elaboration / adding details when needed)
6. Have a consistent, predictable schedule after school. This lessens student frustrations and improves executive functioning skills.
7. Ensure that your child is responsible for her things: bringing necessary items home, filling out assignment notebook, unpacking once at home, etc.
8. Ask your child to look over their homework for the week and to create a daily plan to divide the work (lessens stress and ensures students are not overwhelmed Thurs. night).
9. Practice multiplication and division facts nightly, with flashcards, Xtra math, etc.
10. charge ipad nightly
11. weekly folder/backpack cleanout
12. bookmark teacher pages and look over site together

Fifth Grade:

1. Check student planners and the blog for nightly homework and news you can use
2. Read 20 minutes a night (listen to your child or even read to them) and record on reading log
3. Study spelling words for a few minutes every night
4. Complete math homework every night - watch math videos to help when needed
5. Remind students to bring a charged iPad to school every day
6. Read the planner for homework/class updates.
7. Review homework to ensure accuracy and completion.
8. Read together.
9. Encourage independence.
10. Attend curriculum night and PT conferences.

11. Take attendance seriously and be sure they arrive on time.
12. Help with organization by putting routines in place.
13. Teach study skills by helping with weekly or unit test and reviewing together.
14. Give praise for work completed and good behavior.