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5 Painless Parenting Strategies for Homework Time

Do you and your kids dread the thought of doing homework after school? It doesn't have to be a struggle. There are some tried-and-true strategies to establish a healthy homework routine that doesn't leave everyone frustrated, and you can use technology to support your efforts. Here are five parenting tips to take the horror out of homework.

Establish a Routine

Create an after school routine with your child that incorporates homework time. As Healthy Children explains, kids [thrive on routine](#), so setting up and maintaining a routine can help them get into the habit of doing their homework with less of a fight. You might establish that every day after school they have a snack, watch 30 minutes of television, and then do their homework for an hour before helping with dinner. Create a routine that has a scheduled homework time, but don't forget to include some downtime for them as well. Kids [need self-care](#), too.

Put a Tablet to Work

Tablets are excellent homework helpers. They are portable, lightweight, and a tablet such as the Apple iPad 10.2 has as much [operating power](#) as a laptop. Plus they have sufficient battery life to get through even the hardest projects. Tablets can make it more fun to type a report, research a subject, or even master a new math skill. Plus, it's an investment the whole family can use when it's no longer needed for homework.

If an Apple product doesn't fit with your family, look for an alternative tablet such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab. Not only does it have [sufficient memory](#) and power for school work, it comes with the S pen, which allows your youngster to make notes or doodle with the device.

Look Online for Help

In addition to homework basics, tablets also offer access to online educational support. There are [tons of apps](#) and [videos](#) that can help struggling students clarify important concepts or expand their understanding of a subject. It's a good resource to take the pressure off parents, and most of the homework help you need will be free. If your child really gets stuck, there are even [live online tutors](#) who can guide them through a tough assignment.

Create a Homework Space

Part of the routine of homework should be doing that work in the [same place every day](#). Create a quiet corner in the living room (with the television off) or set up a desk in the bedroom. Make sure there is plenty of good lighting and the area has the paper, pens, and books required to work, and include a [charger](#) for whatever devices your child is using, just in case. Creating a homework station will give them the resources and distraction-free zone needed to get their work done. It will also help them focus as that area becomes associated with work time.

Add Incentives for Motivation

All work and no play makes a frustrated student. So make sure you [incentivize homework time](#) with a little fun! Let your child have an hour or two of [playing games](#) or doing another favorite

activity once homework is complete. It can help motivate them to get their work done sooner if they know they have something fun waiting for them at the end of it.

Make sure they actually finish the work and that you check it before they jump into their reward activity, though. Be tough about it, too. If they don't finish their homework, don't allow them to bargain for some fun time.

Homework doesn't have to be a frustrating time in your household. Putting these tips to work and being consistent with them can help your child develop good homework habits. Those habits will pay off now as well as in the future. So set up a special homework area, use those online resources, and find incentives that motivate both of you to push through until it's all done. Pretty soon homework will become a part of your daily routine--and not a daily struggle.