

Tips to Help Your Child Be Better Prepared For School Each Day

If your child is not bring home a report card that meets with your approval then you might want to try an implement a **study table each night**. The key here is every night, not just when your child says they have work (practice is needed everyday and repetition helps us learn). There is work to be done every night (if there is no written assignments to be done which is rarely the case) then there is always studying and memorizing to be done (practice test yourself). Learning is a process of repetition and the same material must be studied over and over if it is to be truly learned and not just memorized for the testing day.

Tip number one – If you child is failing a class then that book must come home every night. No matter which class there are always vocabulary words, questions at the end of the chapter, a study guide, work sheets, words within the chapter in dark print, tables or graphs within the chapter or chapter summaries that can be memorized or reviewed. It is easy to pick out material that the author finds important. It is usually in bold print, numbered, or listed in a special table, graph or picture within the chapter or the chapter review page.

Tip number two – Check your child’s assignment book every night. If your child is doing what they are asked to do this should be a complete list of all their assignments (many students however, do not keep this accurately). You may request that each teacher sign off on this book at the end of each class so that you can be sure you have a complete list of homework assignments or you may also check “homework hero” on the school website.

Tip number three – Set up a study table a place that your child uses each night without fail. This should be a place where you can keep an eye on your child’s progress (maybe the kitchen table). This should be a set routine every night. From 6:30 to 8:00 every night (no TV, no radio, no phone) your child is at the study table working. (When and if grades improve you may want to shorten this to one hour.) Try to stop and check periodically to see if you child needs any help (give them spelling words or help them find an answer to a question). They need to know this is important enough to you that you are willing to help. But keep in mind this is their responsibility to pay attention in class and know how to do an assignment, not yours.

Tip number four - Never allow your child to skip an assignment merely because they do not know how to do something. We always learn from our mistakes allow them to make mistakes. Often times the teacher does not know how to help a student because they do not get enough work turned in to even know where or how to help that student. They should do every assignment even if it is incorrect. Then the teacher can help them and show them where the mistakes are and how to correct them.

Tip number five – Make them stay at the study table the entire time, if they finish their written work then have them study and memorize important material do not let them get up when they have finished their written work - they are not done. Every student needs study time this is equally as important as written

assignments and often times there are just too many distractions at school.

***Note:** If the student accidentally leaves books or assignment book at school then the study table is changed to two hours (it must be easier to bring studies home than to forget, if not they will forget more often than they will remember. This two-hour time can be filled with writing from the newspaper or the encyclopedia. You must be consistent if you give in once it will become a battle ground every night, make it easy on yourself and stick to the rules.

Tip number six – When they have finished encourage them to check their homework with other classmates and discuss solutions (this does not mean copy answers). Cooperative learning is a positive for both students. Use the school study hall to review or even over learn material (this should not be a time that is wasted away because you have finished it at home). Help you child **practice test themselves** over important materials (give them spelling words, or vocabulary words and see if they can come up with the correct answers). Every time we recall information it reinforces the information in our memory (**it is not how long we study it is how often**).

Tip number seven – Praise your child not only for improvement but for their efforts as well. Then when you see improvement, not only praise, but reward them for their improvement.

Tip number eight – Help them get organized and make sure they have needed materials. (Use folders, assignment books, notebook tabs, anything and everything at hand to help them keep track of materials.) Encourage them to keep everything in they notebook under the correct tab dated or numbered. Do not allow them to just jam in a backpack (it will never get to where it is going.)

Tip number nine – Keep a weekly schedule of tests (you find this on homework hero) so the night before you help them prepare and practice test themselves.

Tip number ten – Call the teachers (**good communication always helps**) and talk with them periodically to see if they are seeing any improvement. This will also keep you motivated to stay on task. The key to this program is consistency it must be every night. Repetition is the key to learning. Many students hurry though their written work during the school day to lessen the time at home doing schoolwork. First, when they hurry they usually make more mistakes. Second if they are hurrying to finish the written work there is no time spent studying, reviewing and memorizing the material that they are being tested over.

Therefore, poor performance on tests is almost guaranteed. This is not a fun task forcing your child to do their homework. No one said it would be easy this thing we call “parenting”. As parents you know how hard it is to make a living and earn money – please help your child become an educated productive wage-earning citizen. Today a good education is essential to finding a good job. It is too bad the opportunity to get this education comes at a time when they are too immature to appreciate the importance of their education. You the parent must help them realize the importance of their education and take advantage of this opportunity - it will go by so very quickly.