

## ACTION INFORMATION SHEET

# Teach Your Child Key Homework Skills

As a parent, you know that homework plays an important role in your child's education. Homework helps your child learn in different ways. It gives your child the opportunity to:

- practice and participate in the academic skills taught during the school day
- make greater progress in school
- build student responsibility

Homework helps you as well. It gives you the chance to see what your child is learning in school, and to note his or her progress.

Most parents want to help their children with homework, but what is the best way to do so? Children build skills by doing homework independently. *It is important that parents do not complete homework for their children.* The best way to help is by teaching your child the following key homework skills. You can support your child's learning at home by teaching these skills that will be useful throughout your child's entire school year.

### Key Skills

#### 1. Know what is assigned and what is needed to do the assignment

- Use a planner or another method to record the assignment and the due date
- Develop a method to identify books and materials that need to go home
- Learn when teachers assign homework. Learn where they record it publicly for students. Examples include classroom boards, paper calendars, or online postings

#### 2. Choose an appropriate place for doing homework

- Find a place that meets the student's study style and needs
- Have room for required books and materials

#### 3. Start all assignments by carefully reading and following directions

- Use other assignments and book examples as guides
- Write down specific questions to get help during the next class
- Know who to ask if problems or questions occur

#### 4. Break down hard or long-term assignments

- Look for and identify key parts and words in the directions
- Figure out how much time is needed to do the parts of long-term assignments. Make a timeline to follow
- Develop ways to keep information and work organized

#### 5. Stay focused on homework

- Take breaks
- Create a goal or reward for finished work
- Look for ways to make boring assignments more interesting

#### 6. Pay attention to detail

- Check that all assignments are completely done
- Make sure all assignments are labeled with name and class
- Produce work that is neat and readable

#### 7. Follow due date requirements

- Bring homework to class
- Know when and how to turn in homework
- Find out if the homework should be kept after it has been returned

*\*Content based upon Seven Steps to Homework Success: A Family Guide for Solving Common Homework Problems by Sydney S. Zentall and Sam Goldstein*