

## Homework Basics

Homework has been a part of students' lives since the beginning of formal schooling in the United States. However, the practice has sometimes been accepted and other times rejected, both by educators and parents. This has happened because homework can have both positive and negative effects on children's learning and attitudes toward school.

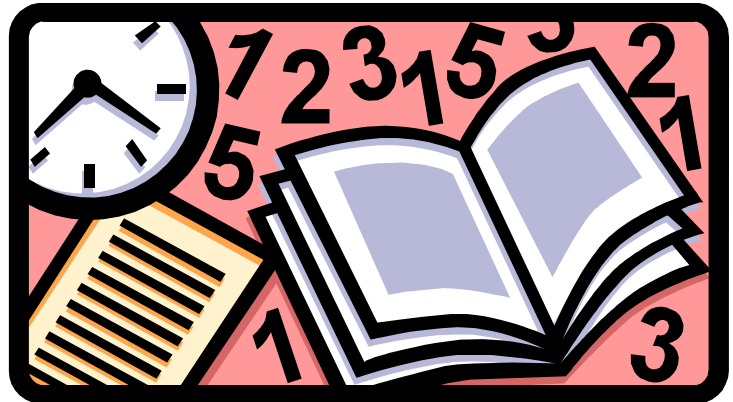
### The Benefits of Homework

Homework can have many benefits for young children. It can improve remembering and understanding of schoolwork. Homework can help students develop study skills that will be of value even after they leave school. It can teach them that learning takes place anywhere, not just in the classroom. Homework can benefit children in more general ways as well. It can foster positive character traits such as independence and responsibility. Homework can teach children how to manage time.

### Types of Homework

Homework assignments typically have one or more purposes. The most common purpose is to have students practice material already presented in class.

- ✘ Practice homework is meant to reinforce learning and help the student master specific skills.
- ✘ Preparation homework introduces material that will be presented in future lessons. These assignments aim to help students learn new material better when it is covered in class.
- ✘ Extension homework asks students to apply skills they already have to new situations.
- ✘ Integration homework requires the student to apply many different skills to a single task, such as book reports, science projects or creative writing.



Homework can be an effective way for students to improve their learning and for parents to communicate their appreciation of schooling.

Source: US Department of Education