

Do You Have Any Homework?

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Do you have any homework? This used to be a common question in the home. Is it still today? Parents expect kids to have homework – but not too much.

An interesting phenomenon today is that parents feel teachers give too much homework. Kids have a lot going on in their lives. They might be involved in karate, BMX, Pop Warner or other sports, dance, cheer team, or even church events. Those are all great things. They take time – including parents' time. Parents have to have kids fed, let them have some recreation and get them to bed at a decent time. (That is – except for the kids who stay up and watch TV shows that are inappropriate for them - or the kids that can't stop playing their video game, chatting online, texting, using their cell phone or listening to their music.)



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But regardless, it takes some time to get homework done properly. And if the parent is asked to help with the homework along with all the other things already on their plates it can become quite frustrating for them. That is very understandable. When they become frustrated they might start blaming the teacher for not explaining things well enough for the child to do the work at home. They might even feel they are teaching their child what they should

have learned in school.

Do teachers give too much homework? Maybe some give it for the wrong reasons. The purpose of homework is for practice of skills, studying for tests and for extension of learning. It is not for busy work. It should not be monotonous pages of the same kind of math problem or language arts worksheet. It should be a chance for the student to practice his/her learning independently. Therefore – parents should not need to help. It should be work that directly reflects what was covered in the classroom – not work given out in a packet ahead of time to be completed over the week. If a student has mastered a skill in class, they should not have to do more homework practicing that skill – they should be able to move on.

Homework is important – but the days of giving homework just because it has been the historical practice is not a good reason. Homework must be relevant and purposeful. Homework should require study of a concept yet to be mastered for some and higher level application of what is learned in school for others. Students should learn study habits which help them retain information daily so that they do not just cram for tests and not retain the content. So, do you have any homework? Homework has a place in education – but perhaps not same one it used to.