

# The Seven Most Common Homework Problems

Problem # 1	Child does not do his best work.( work is sloppy and full of mistakes)
Problem # 2	Child refuses to do homework.
Problem # 3	Child fails to bring assignments home.
Problem # 4	Child takes all night to finish homework.
Problem # 5	Child will not do homework on his own.
Problem # 6	Child waits until the last minute to finish assignments.
Problem # 7	Child will not do homework unless you stay beside him.



"I CAN'T COME OUT. I HAVE TO HELP MY DAD WITH MY HOMEWORK."

**Sometimes** a child will come to school and say they worked on their homework for a "whole hour." A humorous story is that during the hour they spent 10 minutes looking for their homework and laying out their pencils, 15

minutes petting the dog, 15 minutes looking in the refrigerator for a snack and 15 minutes talking with their brother about a video game. The last 5 minutes of the hour Mom did the homework for them.

## **8 Homework tips:**

1. Have your child draw with a marker pen a homework to do list with a check off box in front of each item. Have them decide how they want to organize the list. When an item is finished they put a checkmark in the box.
2. When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. If you are working harder than the child is working on the assignment, stop. Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help suggests to your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
3. Have your child read the directions out loud and then tell you what he or she thinks needs

to be done. If the child can not explain the assignment have him ask the teacher rather than argue with you at home.

4. It is best if you do not sit or stand next to your child once they are engaged and working. You want them to realize they can do it even if you are not there.
5. It is reasonable to ask your child to spend 20 -30 minutes on homework. How productively they work on it is their responsibility. There is a big difference between "capable of doing the work" and making the internal decision something along the lines of "I just don't want to." Often you see this same dialogue pop up outside the classroom when a child is ask to do chores or small household tasks at home.
6. If they choose not to use their time productively, don't force them to do the assignment and equally important don't protect them from consequences that follow once they return to school. It may mean having to meet with the teacher.
7. When your child was a preschooler you naturally protected them and could simply "fix" problems for them. Grade school age children have moved past the point where you as a parent can "fix" everything. Reality is you already passed First Grade. Now it is your child's turn.
8. Helping your child understand how to be responsible, accountable, and deal with the real world will pay huge dividends in his future experiences. For more ideas on taking the hassle out of homework check out [LoveandLogic.com](http://LoveandLogic.com).