

Kindergarten Homework Policy

Recent evidence has shown that children who are most successful in school come from homes where education is a priority in the home. The following is a list of suggestions to help your child realize that education is important in your family. Please use good sense with the list. Two or three activities a week is enough. Choose activities that best meet your child's needs and your family needs at the same time. This should be an enjoyable time for all concerned. Do not tug and pull. Time spent together is so important to nurture a love of learning.

1. Turn off the television. Use the television for quality programming during the week. Watch for those National Geographic Specials, or rent special documentaries on science or geographic topics.
2. READ, READ, READ! If you don't do any other activity but this one, you are on the right track. Read every day to your child. Read stories, fairytales, rhymes, poetry, riddles, jokes, magazines, newspapers, atlases, encyclopedias, and children's dictionaries. Saturate your child with print. Go to the library together. Have a family reading time. Be a reading role model. Share what you are reading with your child. Talk and discuss. Ask who, what, where, when, why and what if questions. And then read some more.

Discuss everything. Spend time talking with, not at your child. Encourage your child to engage in thoughtful conversation. Oral language is that crucial foundation on which reading comprehension is built. Ask questions that require more than a simple yes or no response.

3. Write creative stories together; the whole family can contribute a sentence. Have your child dictate stories to you. Write it down clearly and read it back. Share it with the whole family. Display it. Write about trips, special experiences, or events. Draw pictures, illustrate, keep your child's dedicated journal or diary. Write letters together to relatives and friends. Take them to the Post Office and mail them.
4. Spend time every week looking at the globe. Your child will be a geographic ace in no time.
5. Take nature walks together. Search for interesting things for our science center. We love insects, plants, seeds, leaves, rocks, shells, and strange and unusual wonders of nature. Talk about changes in the seasons, the sky, and the weather. Dig a hole. Take time to observe the natural environment.
6. Work puzzles together, build castles together, as well as play board games and card games with your child. Put on a puppet show together. Act out a favorite story with the whole family taking part.

7. Provide lots of drawing paper, paints, chalks, crayons and colored pens. Encourage lots of drawing and painting. Put on some classical music to enjoy at the same time.
8. Give your child experiences. Got to museums, aquariums, planetariums, the zoo, children's theatre, concerts etc. Take a hike!