

# Homework Strategies

What Research Says about  
Homework in  
Elementary Schools

“No research has ever found a benefit to assigning homework (of any kind or in any amount) in elementary school.”

*THE HOMEWORK MYTH: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing by Alphonse Kohn - Education expert, author and researcher*

Hattie suggests, "There is no relationship whatsoever between time spent on homework and course grade, and "no substantive difference in grades between students who complete homework and those who do not."

- *Hattie, J. A. (1992). Measuring the effects of schooling*

Carole Ames of Michigan State University points out that it isn't "quantitative changes in behavior" – such as requiring students to spend more hours in front of books or worksheets – that help children learn better. Rather, it's "qualitative changes in the ways students view themselves in relation to the task, engage in the process of learning, and then respond to the learning activities and situation."

“Homework should not be assigned just for the sake of having homework.” According to the National Education Association, (NEA) “homework should typically serve one of three purposes: *practice, preparation or extension.*”

*Research Spotlight on Homework NEA Reviews of the Research on Best Practices in Education*

“It makes good sense to only assign homework that is beneficial to student learning instead of assigning homework as a matter of policy.”

*Educational Leadership: Special Topic / The Case For and Against Homework*  
- Robert J. Marzano and Debra J. Pickering

Cooper (2007) suggested that research findings support the common “10-minute rule” (p. 92), which states that “all daily homework assignments combined should take about as long to complete as 10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level”.

*Cooper, H. Synthesis of research on homework. Educational Leadership*

~~Homework~~  
Home “learning” SCIS

Homework is authentic and may be differentiated for students – both with regard to what and when.

Not all students necessarily would have homework every day – this is not an equity issue, rather a learning one.

# SCIS LS Homework consist of:

- additional practice for skill development
- assignments that were not able to be completed by the student during the school day
  - preparing for a future lesson, such as reading the next chapter in a lit book or researching a topic soon to be covered in class
  - extending a classroom-covered topic by doing parallel work by perhaps writing a report or creating a science fair project.
  - reading

To prevent students from being over-loaded with homework the following guidelines have been developed:

- Total homework time for any given night will vary
- Grades 1-3 may have 10 to 30 minutes of homework a night
  - Grades 4-5 may have 40 to 50 minutes of homework at night
  - independent reading or reading with family members for at least twenty minutes a night

# Student Responsibilities:

- to keep track of assignments in an assignment notebook
- to ask questions for understanding
- to take necessary materials home and return the next day
- to complete assigned work by predetermined deadlines, to prepare for tests and to prepare for long-term

## Teacher's Responsibilities:

- to base the number, frequency and degree of difficulty of homework assignments on the abilities, activities and needs of the student
- to be sure that homework is a planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing classroom learning and experiences
- to assign homework in ways that ensure student understanding of expectations

# Family Responsibilities:

- to provide help as needed, but also to be sure that the work is completed by the child unless otherwise noted
- are encouraged to discuss the assignment with their child, show an interest in the child's work and offer encouragement
- to be supportive of the teachers and the assignments, but also be responsive to the child's concerns or confusion about the assignments
- to communicate any concerns with the teacher

# How Homework Expectations are Communicated

Homework diaries are used in  
Grades 1 – 5

Homework policy - teacher website  
<https://pd.scis-his.net/faculty/lis>

# Sources

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- Alphonse Kohn, *THE HOMEWORK MYTH: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*
- J. Alleman, J. Brophy, B. Knighton, R. Ley, B. Botwinski, and S. Middlestead, *Homework done right: Power learning in real-life situations*