

ORGANIZING HOMEWORK

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Routines

Routines about when and where homework is completed are essential. Although most students will not admit it, they know they benefit from structure for completing homework. The structure can be imposed by you or by teachers.

On the first day of school, you should establish a routine with your child for completing homework. The routine needs to reflect your child's individual learning style. For example, some students with attention weaknesses work best if they spend no more than fifteen minutes on a subject, move to another assignment for fifteen minutes, and then return to the original assignment (rather than work continuously on the same assignment). Some students do better if they spend a half-hour after school on homework, take a break to play or eat dinner, then complete the homework. Depending on how long they are working, students should plan to take appropriate breaks to avoid becoming fatigued. While the best time for completing homework differs for each student, it's important to establish what it is and make it a routine.

Arrival/Departure Station

Students should identify one place in the home where they can assemble everything they will need for the next day of school. This "arrival and departing station" can be a corner on the floor near the front door, a book shelf in their room, or perhaps a shelf near the kitchen door. When they are finished with homework that is a good time to assemble their work, books, and any special items they might need for the next day (e.g., gym clothes, show-and-tell item) and place them in this spot. Everything should be ready so the students walk out the door on time.

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