

## **Helping at Home Situations (Strategies for Dealing with Homework Concerns.)**

1. Having to work very hard at not “telling” your child how to do the math.
  - Ask leading/ open-ended questions.
  - Ask, “What is the problem asking you to do?”
  - Provide hints, but don’t solve it.
  - Provide wait time; be patient.
  - If you do tell, try to push for understanding (focus on sense making).
  
2. The math is not familiar.
  - Find a resource person (e.g., homework buddy).
  - Read entire investigation.
  - Have a child get help from a teacher.
  
3. Parent’s method of working the problems does not make sense to the child.
  - Both do the problem and then compare and discuss.
  - Have child teach the parent.
  - Call homework buddies.
  - Work simpler, but similar problem.
  - Write a note to the teacher on their homework paper (email).
  - Try to identify the problem so the child knows what to ask.
  
4. Parent wants to emphasize understanding, but the child wants the answer.
  - Emphasize this is not acceptable.
  - Tell the child process is as important as answers.
  - Have child explain, but parent records.
  - Encourage child to use pictures and examples.
  - Reread together and paraphrase ideas.
  - Think about what do I know, where am I stuck.
  
5. Child does not want any help.
  - Don’t buy it.
  - Institute supervised, required study time; in view of parents; no interruptions; expectation for discussion, if not help.
  - Have the child show finished products.
  - Have the child teach the parent.
  
6. Child doesn’t keep an organized notebook.
  - Help get it organized, then do periodic checks.
  - Help child design own work organization method, but fine tune it.
  - Stay with it until it is a good habit.
  - Insert a pocket folder, one side to “to do’s” and one side for “turn in/ done.”
  
7. Assignments are not done on time.
  - Determine what consequences you are willing to implement.
  - Institute a calendar/ planner.
  - Schedule a consistent homework time after school.
  - Limit extra curricular activities until work is done.
  - Ask teacher to sign the planner.

8. Child is so far behind, s/he feels s/he cannot get caught up.

- Set short term goals that can be accomplished.
- View each new unit as a new start.
- Limit extra curricular activities until work is made up.
- Schedule a conference with the teacher with the child present.
- Try to identify the major causes of the child not doing the work.

9. Child lacks confidence.

- Identify the source/ causes of problem.
- Stress importance of math.
- Provide praise and encouragement often.
- Emphasize that mistakes are expected and okay, but child needs to learn from them.
- Show connections to student's interests.