

■ When your child has a large project, help him break it into smaller pieces. Suggest that he write down each step and hang the list in his room. For a science project, he might spend two days choosing an idea, a week doing the experiment, and another week writing up his lab report.

Tip: If your youngster is struggling with assignments, contact his teacher. Together, you can come up with suggestions to help him.



project about the main character.

■ Involve the whole family. Hold a geography bee when your youngster has to memorize names of continents and oceans. Make your child the host of a family game show where "contestants" answer questions he poses. *Note:* Have him write out questions and answers first so he gets extra practice.

Breaking up boredom

Your child may never love homework, but there are ways to make it more fun. Consider these ideas:

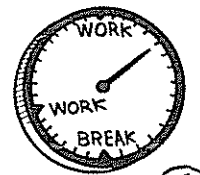
■ Encourage your youngster to start a homework group. Working with friends is not only more entertaining, it can increase understanding. Suggest that they take turns explaining math problems or quizzing each other on vocabulary words. When your child teaches others, he boosts his own skills.

■ Help your child bring out his creative side. For example, he might write a poem about rainbows using a different color ink for each line. Or he could turn a book report into a scrapbook

■ Plan study breaks, especially when your youngster is working on long or tough assignments. Suggest working for 30 minutes, then taking a 10-minute break to walk around the block or read a comic book.

■ Go somewhere else. You might head to the library, a coffee shop, or even a quiet corner in the park to do homework. A new environment can provide a welcome change of pace.

■ Celebrate success. When your youngster finishes writing a report on tigers, take a family trip to the zoo. He can see the subject of his hard work up close!



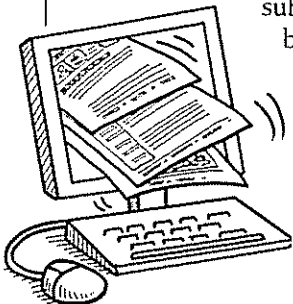
Online homework help

How can your child find answers when she's stumped? Help may be as close as a computer screen. Here are a few places to try.

Yahoo! Kids School Bell • <http://kids.yahoo.com/directory/School-Bell>

Yahoo's School Bell contains links for language arts, science and nature, math, and social studies. Students can submit questions to

be answered, learn songs to help them memorize multiplication tables and parts of speech, and read about cultures, governments, and flags.



Fact Monster Homework Center • www.factmonster.com/homework

Find help for most school subjects here. Your child can read biographies of famous people, study with math flashcards, and use reference materials (dictionary, encyclopedia, almanac, atlas).

Kids Konnect • www.kidskonnect.com

Featuring an alphabetized list of hundreds of topics, this site is a great place to start for reports and projects. Students will find information about people, animals, hobbies, and more.

B. J. Pinchbeck's Homework Helper • www.bjpinchbeck.com

This site contains dozens of links to resources ranging from All Living

Things to Webster's Dictionary. Or your youngster can click on a school subject, like social studies or art, and find information from the U.S. Census Bureau Map Finder or the Artcyclopedia art gallery.

Kid Info • www.kidinfo.com/School_Subjects.html

Children can choose from a list of school subjects to find helpful links. At Language Arts, they'll learn how to write a good letter or find favorite authors on the Web. In the math section, kids can play games to reinforce basic skills, try mind-bending brain-teasers, and create five different types of graphs. This site also features history, geography, health, science, and more.

Home & School CONNECTION