Homework Tips

- Set up a regular time to do homework. Make a schedule to avoid procrastination.

- Watch your child to make sure he or she understands the homework assignment. If they don’t, do a few questions together. You can also call the UFT Homework Helpline at (212) 777-3380 for extra help.

- Ask your child to show you the homework after the teacher has corrected it. It is important that you and your child review the corrected homework assignment.

- Stay in touch with your child’s teacher. Ask about their classes, what they are studying, and how you can support learning at home.

- Don’t do your child’s homework for them. Help them learn how to finish the assignment on their own.

- Show your child that you think homework is important. If you are at work during homework time, or your child finishes their homework at an afterschool program, ask to see their work when you get home.

- Praise your child for doing well. Nothing builds self-esteem like praise from parents.

- Keep a portfolio of your child’s “best pieces” for ongoing review. See how they are progressing over the course of the school year.

- Help your child organize his or her assignments by recording them on calendars or planners, along with due dates and dates of tests.
Homework: The Do’s and Don’ts

The Do’s

Provide a well lit, comfortable, quiet location with necessary supplies and plenty of space.

Write a daily schedule setting aside time each day for homework. Give your child the message that homework is a #1 priority. Be assertive!

If necessary, create a homework log for you and your child’s teachers to initial daily.

Encourage your child to work independently. Homework teaches children responsibility. Give help only after your child makes an effort on their own.

If your child is having trouble understanding his or her assignments, contact the teacher to discuss the difficulty right away. Your child may need extra help or services in school.

If your child needs incentives, develop a meaningful reward or point system, but make sure they understand that providing rewards is your choice.

Communicate your confidence in your child’s ability. Praise specific behavior, and show appreciation for your child’s efforts.

The Don’ts

Don’t let your child do homework in a distracting environment.

Don’t make homework the last thing scheduled into your child’s day. This sends the message that homework is less important than other activities.

Don’t forget that parent’s support and encouragement go hand-in-hand with children’s academic success. Be involved, interested, and committed to the importance of homework.

Don’t do your child’s homework for them, because it may confirm their feelings that they are not capable of doing it.

Don’t allow your child to get involved in a power struggle with you. Set limits.

Don’t let your child race through their homework. Make them take their time and put forth their best effort.