



Six ways to help your child with a writing assignment

A writing assignment can seem like a tough challenge for many students. Good writing involves everything from understanding a subject to knowing how to organize thoughts to checking spelling and punctuation.

Here are six ways to offer your support with writing assignments:

1. Help your child “talk through” some ideas before starting. Clear writing starts with clear thinking. Talking with you can help your child clarify his thoughts.
2. Encourage your child to take notes and make an outline before he starts to write. This can help him organize his thoughts.
3. Remind your child that first drafts don’t have to be perfect. Encourage him to focus on what he wants to say first. He can edit his paper for spelling and grammar later.
4. Offer plenty of praise. Your praise can motivate your child to keep working. Be as specific as you can: “I really like the way you’ve described what led up to this event. I understand it better now.”
5. Don’t over criticize. It’s helpful to point out errors now and then, but if your child thinks you are always looking for what’s wrong, he will be less likely to share his writing with you.
6. Be patient. Good writing takes time. Your encouragement can help your child develop into a clear thinker and skilled writer.

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