

Other Times and Places for Doing Homework

You may want to do your homework at school. Check with your teacher about this option. The school library may be ideal. A school homework club is a good idea too.

Think about doing project homework on the weekend when you have more time.

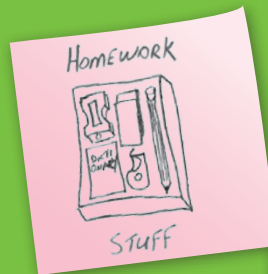
The local library is also a good place to do homework.



You Need to Have Your Tools

Put all your homework tools—pencils, pens, coloured pencils, paper, eraser, sharpener, and dictionary (very handy)—in a box that you can get at easily and not waste time looking for stuff.

The computer could be a good tool as well, but you can easily get sidetracked. Computers are really not necessary for homework.



It's a Question of Balance

You need time to play, participate in sports and arts activities like dance and music, and you need time to think and do your own thing.

All of these activities are important for brain and body development.

Homework should not prevent you from doing all of these other activities!

So, how do you make time for everything?

Get Yourself Organized!

Ask your family how they can help you organize your time so that you can balance all these activities.



Get comfortable. Get focussed.
Make Homework Work For You!

Homework TIPS

GRADES 4-6

Make Homework Work for You!



NOVA SCOTIA
Education

What is homework?

Homework is any assignment your teacher asks you to do when you are not in class. It can be fun and exciting, something you can hardly wait to get at, like a project on a topic that you are interested in, or a math puzzle, or art project. Homework can also seem like a chore that you don't want to do! This pamphlet will help you take charge and make homework work for you!

Why should you do homework?

Homework can help you learn new things, review and practise what you learned in class, and help you figure out how to learn. Learning **how to learn** is a lifelong skill that is the key to understanding the world.



How much time should you spend on homework?

Keep track.

Note what time you start your homework and what time you end. You decide when you have had enough. The following guide may be helpful:

Total Time for All Subjects

In grade 4 20–30 minutes 4 nights/week

In grade 5 30–40 minutes 4 nights/week

In grade 6 40–50 minutes 4 nights/week

Remember: There is no hard and fast rule that requires homework every day!

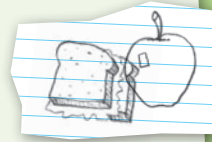
Making Time for Homework

You decide when and where.

Talk to your family about what would work for you. Perhaps you are an early bird and would like to do your homework after breakfast before school, or perhaps you are more of a night hawk and will do your best work before bed!

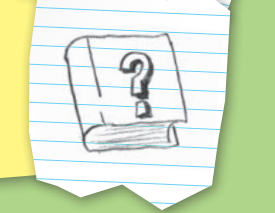
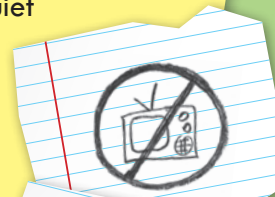


Remember: You will be better able to do homework when you are not tired, hungry, or worried about other things ...



TIPS

- Schedule your homework in advance. Use your agenda book or homework notebook to help keep you on track (a to-do list is very helpful).
- Pick a spot that is quiet and away from the family action.
- Turn off the TV or find a place where you can't see it or hear it.
- Music is OK, but not too loud.
- Get comfortable.
- Be positive.
- Be sure you understand what it is that you are asked to do.



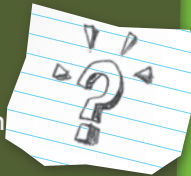
What to do if ...

... you don't know what to do.

Call your homework buddy, ask an adult to explain, or ask your teacher the next day and then complete the homework.

... the homework is too hard.

If you have given the homework a good try and are getting nowhere, write a note about what the problem is with the homework, have it signed by your parent or guardian, and bring the note to your teacher.



... you just didn't have time.

Sometimes you just can't get to the homework—you could bring a note from home signed by your parent or guardian, or explain to the teacher what has happened.



... your teacher doesn't give you homework.

Do your own thing. Use time to

- be physically active
- read
- build something
- take something apart
- create some artwork
- play music
- cook
- help someone do something

