

Fruition Homework Tips can help make homework drama free for you and your child:

As Bart Simpson famously says, "Homework happens!" ☺

Whether you believe in homework or not, it is likely that your child will experience the need to manage homework tasks effectively. We hope that these **Fruition Homework Tips** will help you keep your home a combat-free zone:

- Make homework a **routine**. Have a designated area (clutter and distraction free) and designated time for homework. This time does not have to be after school. If your child is a 'morning person', is there an opportunity to work on activities before school?
- Have a stash of **stationery** (lead and coloured pencils, pens, ruler, calculator, compass, protractor, glue, paper, cardboard) on hand to deal with the unexpected task or the 'forgotten' pencil case.
- Help your child develop effective work habits by **identifying and discussing what skills need to be learned**. Try to positively frame the way you talk about homework. Try not to see it as a problem and a burden rather as an opportunity to learn something new.
- Discuss the homework that has been set and create a **prioritised list** (try and start with the easiest task to build confidence, success and completion moving on to the more difficult or longest task). Ask your child where they think they should begin their homework to foster good planning and independence. If your child cannot complete one question, move on and write a note/email to the classroom teacher to ask for assistance or clarification.
- Encourage the use of a **student diary** by referring to it when planning homework order. Is your child writing down all of the homework required? Check with your teacher if you sense that the homework tasks recorded are incomplete or not fully understood and noted by your child
- Communicate** with the teacher. If you are having difficulty interpreting a question, write a small note in the homework book or diary or send an email. This will make the teacher aware of any problems and avoid your child experiencing anxiety due to the incomplete task
- Model effective work habits**. When it comes time to pay the bills, plan a meal or a birthday outing, do the shopping or when you organize to catch up on some work, ensure your child sees you following your own advice! If you complete these tasks on your lap in front of the TV, your child will want to do the same.
- Involve your child in your daily tasks**. Ask questions like, "what do you think needs to be done first?" Make a list, order the list and follow the list demonstrating how to change the list and order if things change and we have to flexibly alter the plan.
- Celebrate success**. When an item can be ticked off the list, you can celebrate a small accomplishment has transpired. Most of us can relate to the positive feeling of accomplishing a larger task, one step at a time. Children learn to manage larger projects by breaking the task down into bite-size pieces that they can conquer one step at a time. This is a learning strategy for work and life.

Remember at Fruition we say that 'parents are children's heroes' so you can expect a child who is struggling with homework or school work to be on the defensive when it comes to homework because they want to impress you and feel obligated to please you. Understand that your child can become upset and difficult because they don't want you to see that they are not coping. Chapter 2 of "**You are not raising children, you are raising adults**" deals with this issue in more depth.

For more tips and advice, go to <http://www.fruition.com.au/Book/BuyBook.aspx>