

### Homework in the Elementary Schools

Homework in the elementary school provides a means of extending students classroom experiences. It should be assigned to all students on a regular basis. Homework assignments should relate meaningfully to classroom learning and should be designed to fulfill one or more of the following purposes:

1. Strengthen basic skills and give extra practice on work that has been introduced in class.
2. Extend and enhance school-learned knowledge and skills.
3. Reinforce study habits.
4. Develop initiative, responsibility, and self-direction.
5. Stimulate independent thinking.
6. Increase the range and scope of student interests.
7. Foster worthwhile use of leisure time.

In order to be effective, homework assignments must be carefully planned according to the following principles:

1. The purpose of the assignment and its relationship to what has been taught in class must be clearly defined by the teacher and understood by the students.
2. The teacher should plan with students not only what to do, but how to do it.
3. Assignments should grow out of classroom activities and should be meaningful, interesting, and varied.
4. Homework assignments should reflect the wide variety of subject areas taught in an elementary classroom.
5. Assigned homework should be acknowledged and/or corrected.

Parental involvement is a crucial element of a successful homework plan. A specific classroom homework plan will be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year so that a consistent, regular homework program can be carried out. Parents need to understand the nature and purpose of homework assignments, and their role in specific assignments needs to be clearly defined. Examples of parental involvement in homework assignments might include such activities as participating in a family discussion, listening to a child read aloud, checking written work for neatness or accuracy, giving encouragement, or simply acknowledging with a signature that an assignment has been completed.

Homework assignments will often need to be personalized to meet the needs of individual students. A student's maturity, level of learning, fluency in English, and attention span should all be considered in the assigning of homework. Student responsibilities with regard to homework include:

1. Making sure that assignments are clearly understood.
2. Taking home all materials necessary to complete assignments.
3. Completing homework accurately and neatly.
4. Returning assignments promptly.

The length of time needed to complete homework assignments will vary according to the age of the student and the purpose of the assignment. Listed below are guidelines for the length of homework assignments for each elementary grade.

Grade	Minimum Daily Minutes	Maximum Daily Minutes	Maximum Weekly Minutes
K	15	30	120
1	20	30	120
2	20	40	160
3	30	50	200
4	40	60	240
5	45	60	240

Each school staff, with the aid of the District homework guide, will determine a homework plan to meet the needs of that school's student population. Teachers or school sites may decide to include Home Reading Club and similar activities in the daily homework minutes. It is imperative that school and classroom homework plans are clearly communicated to the home.

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LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT