

# Should Parents Help with Homework?

The support and guidance of a parent is incredibly important for any child. The right kind of support is essential for any developing child to flourish & excel in anything, be it academically, personally, or professionally. A child needs the support of their parents, albeit to varying degrees. As they grow older, it becomes important for parents to tone down things and allow children to come into their own. The case is the same regarding parents helping their wards with their homework.

The question under focus today is whether parents should help their children or students with homework. This is quite a debatable topic for discussion. Can parental involvement end the thousands of "Can you [help me do my homework?](#)" requests to professional online homework help services yearly? Can a parent help a student become better in homework and assignments, or will they make things even more difficult?

Experts present some exclusive insights.



Source: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/mother-and-son-4039177/>

## **The Positive Impacts of Parental Involvement in a Student's Academics**

Parental involvement has been found to have a positive impact on student performance. According to the [American Psychological Association](#), active parent engagement or involvement improves learning, development, as well as their overall mental & physical health. A parent helping out their child in academics leads to:

- Cultivation of positive learning behavior
- Reinforcement of the things studied
- Better appreciation for education
- Improved confidence
- Reduced stress and anxiety among students

Let's take a closer look at the points above.

### **1. Developing Positive Learning Behavior**

A positive behavior for learning is essential for students to excel. When parents help their wards with homework & other assignments, their reassuring presence automatically creates a reinforcing and positive learning behavior.

An effective and positive learning behavior improves enthusiasm, mental well-being, respect & appreciation, reception & response, and overall academic performance. At the same time, it reduces inappropriate behavior, lack of focus & motivation, stress, and anxiety. And all of these can be achieved if parents join their kids in solving that particularly tough homework with tight deadlines.

However, it is also important for parents to understand where to draw the line when helping. Their aim should always be to guide & help, not to do the homework on behalf of students.

## **2. Reinforcement of Things Learned**

When parents help out, students learn and retain knowledge & skills better. There is a psychological aspect to this as students connect easily with the words of guidance of their parents &, thus, retain information better.

A parent generally dwells more in-depth into the content. They also put in a solid effort to ensure their child's skills, knowledge, and grades reach a greater level. Thus, a parent's support during homework & assignments can be considered the most thorough personalized support a child can receive. Whatever a child learns & solves gets reinforced and etched into their minds, courtesy of the special and careful support from the parent.

Parental involvement with homework can lead to better academic performance, social skills & behavior, and self-confidence. However, this is only possible if parents guide their children to come into their own, not pamper & make them dependent on their support.

### **3. Better Appreciation for Learning**

Parents are some of the best people to highlight the importance of learning a subject and of education as a whole. Their intervention may also be critical when a student loses focus & interest in homework and learning.

A parent can tell their child how solving a homework problem or learning a subject can help them in the future. They can show how an idea or skill is beneficial and guide students into mastering said skills or imbibing that idea perfectly. By clearing doubts & helping solve tough questions, parents reinforce confidence and create a healthy, positive learning environment. All of that makes them appreciate the things they have learned better.

It is also critical for parents to take note of the weaknesses of their child. Alongside improving skills, they should also accept and look to improve upon the areas where they find their wards lacking.

### **4. Better Confidence and Lower Anxiety**

When students have their parents by their side, confidence and motivation automatically boost. No problem or question seems impossible or undoable, and no concept feels too complicated. Instead, students may even get to solving and finishing their homework with vigor and enthusiasm.

The support and involvement of parents act as a mental crutch for students. They do not feel overwhelmed by all the different things to do and learn. With their mother/father by their side, they no longer feel wary of making mistakes. All the stress and anxiety vanishes when a parent tells their child that they have got their back.

Proper parental guidance means pointing out & rectifying mistakes, clearing doubts, explaining concepts, and helping in information research. Again, it does not involve a parent solving a child's homework alone, as that does more harm than good.

The above points highlight the major pros of parents helping a child with their homework. They highlight the most prominent ways proper support can help a child learn and improve. Yet, there have been other studies & reports where parental involvement was detrimental to a student's performance.

### **To Help or Not To Help?**

A [New York Times report](#) based on a study conducted jointly by the University of Texas at Austin and Duke University highlights how parental involvement in a student's homework does not always translate to better grades and performance. The report also states that children who had help from their parents often did worse later on than the ones who did not receive any help.

The report points out the difference between *helping your child do the homework* and *doing it for them*. Things go wrong when a parent tells their child everything they have to do instead of letting them do everything independently and guiding them out of a jam. And it is this point that we have been highlighting throughout our article.

- If one tells their child what to write, what to do, how to solve, and then correct all errors without explaining anything, that is the worst way of helping them out.

- The student does not get to understand & learn anything, does not get to use their mental faculties, build confidence, or anything like that. Instead, things may become worse as a student's weaknesses don't get highlighted, and they learn nothing by solving the homework.
- The question of how much a parent should help a student with their homework is highly debatable. Academics and education psychologists have argued on this subject for decades, and the consensus agrees that *parents must be careful regarding HOW they are helping their wards with their academic tasks.*
- The right attitude and help should involve supervising & monitoring without too much direct intervention.
- Parents should show a child how to get started with some tips & hints and then observe them closely.
- There must not be any intervention unless something is being done entirely wrong or the child asks for help.
- They have to pay close attention to their struggles & weaknesses. Discussions must be up, close & personal, with parents & students working together to overcome them.
- Clear their doubts, help them out when they are stuck, offer tips, tricks, & shortcuts, help them find information, provide additional knowledge, and calm them down when they are getting stressed out – *these are some of the ways a parent should support a child in their learning.*

And that's about it for this write-up. I hope it was an interesting read for anyone looking to understand & find out if parental involvement is the right thing in academics. Like most

things in this world, it works best when a parent knows what's best for their child and offers the right support to help them grow & succeed.