

## CHECKLIST FOR HOMEWORK SUCCESS

☐ **Give Homework Priority in the Household**

- Set aside homework time every night
- Help children and teens organize their homework
- Buy color coded homework folders for each subject
  - Put homework to be done on the right, and homework that is ready to turn in on the left
- Look over the finished work

☐ **Get a Planner**

- Use a paper assignment book or an electronic calendar loaded on the child or teen's smartphone
- Get a homework app for their smartphone or tablet to keep track of assignments (search online for "Homework apps")
- Make sure it's convenient to use and hard to lose
- Remind them to use it
- Ask their teacher to remind them to write down and type in assignments
- Find out if their assignments are available online

☐ **Get a Second Set of Textbooks to Keep at Home**

- Avoid not having the right textbook to do the homework

☐ **Turn Off the TV**

- Some children do well with instrumental music playing which covers distractions
- Provide headphones with music that blocks out noise distraction but doesn't keep grabbing their attention
- Some do best lying in front of the TV – but rarely. See what works best!

☐ **Set Aside "Cell Phone-free, Electronics-free" Homework time.**

- Place cell phones and other electronics in a basket or bin unless they are being used for homework

☐ **Find a Good Spot for Doing Homework**

- If possible find a desk or table
  - Flat, cleared off
  - Room for a computer
- Where you can monitor them
  - In the child's own room unless they are too easily distracted alone
  - Near you
  - Out of traffic flow
  - Minimize sound and activity distractions
- Room to hold supplies: paper, pens, pencils, markers, scissors, ruler, index cards, paper clips, calculator, highlighter, sticky notes, tape, glue, stapler
- Adjustable chair to grow with your child

☐ **Schedule Homework Computer Time for Each Child**

- Ask how much computer time they each need
- Divide the time up between the kids
- Get them involved in planning
- Help each child plan around their scheduled time

☐ **Clean Out Backpack Once a Week**

- Throw out food, wrappers, and papers no longer needed
- Organize graded homework by subject in files in room for future reference
- Do this at the end of every school week

☐ **An Excellent Resource:**

- Goldberg, Donna. *The Organized Student*, Fireside, NY, 2005