

Helping Kids Succeed – Alaskan Style!

Practical Suggestions for Building Assets in Your Child

Asset # 23- Homework

To Build Asset # 23 Parents and Extended Family Can . . .

Let your child's teacher(s) know that you support homework being given, and will help your child accomplish homework daily. — *St. Mary's*

Rotate a "Homework House" around your neighborhood. Each day a different home provides space, encouragement, and help with homework. — *Wrangell*

Give your child a special homework time and a place in the house to always do their homework. It may be a desk, a table, or a shelf and chair in the corner, anywhere that they will go each day to finish their homework. — *Selawik*

Help your child with homework, even if it is difficult for you. You don't have to teach your child the answer. What you teach them is how to find out the answer, how to learn. They watch you learn and they learn. — *Shaktoolik*

Plan to do something special, or let your children choose an activity when their homework is complete. Build an incentive for getting it done. — *Soldotna*

Take an interest in your child's homework. Have them share it with you when they are done. Be available to your children to help them or to review their homework, if they need it. — *Valdez*

Traditional Ways to Promote Asset # 23

Make your house available for kids to have a place to do homework, like a study hall. Tutor kids with their homework, if needed. — *Port Alsworth*

Sometimes, when you see a child, ask them about what they are learning in school and what kind of homework they are working on. — *Gakona*

If you are taking classes or just want to read a book for a while, go to the school and do your reading or read at home. Let kids see that even adults study and read. — *Shishmaref*

Asset # 23 — Homework

Youth reports doing one or more hours of homework per day

45% of youth surveyed by Search Institute have this asset in their lives.*

*Based on Search Institute surveys of almost 100,000 6th to 12th grade youth throughout the United States

What are Assets?

Assets are 40 key building blocks to help kids succeed. Like a dream catcher, assets are the supporting threads in a young person's life that can keep away harm and invite goodness.

Words of Encouragement

Last year, as a freshman in college, I found, for the first time, that I didn't know how to study.

Studying is a concept I should have learned in High School, but because I did not feel challenged, I got by with very little studying. Asset 23 encourages youth to complete one or more hours of homework every day. This is a fabulous habit! It enables one to develop time management skills and a work routine. Good study habits include spending time outside of class for studying or working on projects. To ensure that your student spends one or more hours of homework per day be in communication with your child's teacher. Most teachers send out a weekly bulletin announcing future projects or homework assignments. It will also help if your child's teacher knows that you support homework being assigned, and you're willing to help your child with their daily homework. I remember my mother proofreading almost all of my papers before I handed them in. I not only learned revision skills, but also developed proofreading skills because of her efforts.

When it comes to studying and doing homework, establish a pattern. I find that I work best late afternoon/early evening. This varies for everyone. Find your child's best time of day and provide a quiet, undisturbed environment for them. Perhaps some soft music in the background will help, or having a small bowl of trail mix or popcorn they can munch on as they go through their homework. Support your student if they are having difficulties, often you'll find that they're not the only one feeling this way. Get a group of students together to work on homework with each other. They can discuss the assignment and will probably be able to help each other if one gets stuck. Try to quietly monitor just to be sure that one person isn't doing the work for everyone.

These are just a few suggestions from my own personal experience, and from other Alaskans throughout the state. Encourage your children to do one or more hours of homework each day, and be available to help when needed.

Research

Studies that have looked at the effects of time spent on homework have found a positive relationship between time spent on homework and school success. Time spent on homework has been associated with better mental health and lower drug use. It has also been associated with: Higher achievement test scores, grades, or both. Keith et al., 1986; Leone & Richards, 1989; Thomas et al., 1993
Improved scientific literacy
Reynolds, 1991
Greater completion and accuracy of homework
Miller & Kelley, 1991
Reduced behavioral conduct problems
Hagborg, 1991
Lessened chance of marijuana use
Smith, 1992

Quotes:

"The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it."

James Bryce

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."

<http://www.quoteland.com>

author.asp?AUTHOR_ID=478Thomas Carlyle

Developing a method for recording and prioritizing school work, and scheduling time to complete it, are essential to school success. Diane Heacox, author of *Up from Under-Achievement*, a parenting book about helping your child succeed in school.

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