

# PARENT HELPERS

## HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH ORGANIZATION & STUDY SKILLS

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Students need the right tools (such as notebooks and assignment books) and basic study skills (such as note taking and summarizing) to be successful in school. Some students are able to “intuit” and develop these strategies on their own. They can create systems for organizing, processing, and comprehending what they read or hear in class; planning homework and long-term assignments; studying for tests; and determining effective test-taking strategies. Many students, however, need direct, systematic instruction to develop these skills. Weaknesses in reading, writing, and organization skills or weak attention may affect some students’ ability to self-design and independently apply study strategies. These students can learn study skills, but they need specific instruction and sufficient practice to do so.

Ideally, children should begin to learn organization and study skills in the early elementary grades. However, it is never too late to help your child develop these skills. Even children who are taught good study skills in school will benefit from your reinforcement of them at home. Organizing notebooks, assignments, time and study space requires constant monitoring for some children before they can automatically and independently apply these skills. While helping your child read and listen for main ideas, as well as take two-column notes, is challenging and time-consuming, it can help make a difference in your child’s school performance. It’s hard work and you won’t always have the answers. But through your sincere efforts, your child will know that you are committed to helping him learn! And before you know it, your child will be an independent learner.

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