

9/15/2008

Alternative Homework Plan

Homework is a policy DoDDS endorses. **Thirty minutes** is a good time for 6-7 year olds. I like this because it provides an easy entry to a time where spending 3 hours is the norm, not the exception. But that's way down the road.

My homework notes, believe it or not, are more for parents than they are for the students. Hopefully, I am providing a weekly, predictable set of activities that reflect what we are working on in class and culminating in a Friday Note that indicates if certain areas need to be worked on a bit more. My job is to help you help your child. To me, the pieces of paper that come in every day reflect the development of a sense of responsibility for task completion and turning an assignment in.

Your team gets a point if you turn in your homework each day and return your library book on Friday--bonus points when the entire team accomplishes the task. It's a good motivation for some and a well-earned reward for others. I only grade the homework papers because they need to see I appreciate their effort. Since the electronic report cards came out, an indication as to whether or not the student is doing the assigned homework has been eliminated. At least on our report card, there is nothing on the electronic copy that addresses homework. On my attached report card checklist I have 3 places that reflect homework: nightly homework, monthly home projects and F.R.E.D. home reading.

You know what your child's strengths and weaknesses are. You know what s/he needs to be working on. I personally would much rather see students concentrating on learning sight words and having the concept of sound-symbol correspondence 'click' rather than having them do worksheets. For students that have mastered this, it is reasonable to move onto something else. For students who are still working on these skills, the homework is aligned with what we are doing in class and an opportunity to polish up writing conventions with immediate feedback from you when you check over it.

REMEMBER: It's the paper that gets the credit, not the activity. On the next page you will find a sheet to use if you choose to do something else. Your child can turn this into the homework box and receive the same credit that s/he would get by turning in the paper I send home each night.

9/15/2008

My Homework

Name : _____



<p>Monday</p>	<p>My teacher knows I did it.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>My teacher knows I did it.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>----- I finished reading the books I borrowed. All materials are due on Thursday.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Red Reading Log and completed F.R.E.D. hours papers are due.</p>