

Visit With the Utays

October 2009

School Psychology and Education Specialists



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When Your Child's Homework Becomes YOUR Homework

Back in March, we addressed what to do when homework is more than just "challenging." For example, increase communication with your child's teacher. This month, a parent asked, "How do I know when it's **TOO** challenging? When is it time to get **more** help? When is homework frustration a sign of **deeper** problems?" Great questions!

The number of questions you answer "Yes" to will determine whether you should call for professional help, or **at least** get an evaluation to see exactly what is behind (or underneath) the problem. Answer "Yes" if the item is true more than you would expect for your child's age and grade level.

1. Is it difficult to get your child to **start** homework?
2. Is **working through** the homework efficiently and accurately a challenge?
3. Is homework **frustrating**?
4. Is **completing** homework an issue?
5. Are your well-meaning attempts to help with homework **insufficient** or even **counterproductive**?
6. Are **you** doing your child's homework?
7. Does your child lack the necessary school **skills** to complete homework?
8. Do you have a **gut feeling** that your child is having more trouble with **reading, writing, math, or study skills** than he/she should?
9. Do you have a **gut feeling** that your child is having more trouble with **memory, processing (thinking) speed, attention, focus, or confidence** than he/she should?
10. Is getting the homework **turned in** a worrisome issue?

11. Is homework tense and taxing for your **whole family**?
12. Are you and your child disappointed about **grades**?
13. Are your child's national yearly **standardized test scores** below your expectation considering his/her potential?
14. Are you in the dark when understanding your child's **specific strengths and needs** compared with others the same age?

If you have answered "Yes" to even **one** of the above concerns, and you have done everything you know to do, the next step is to **call for reinforcements**. For example, Total Learning Centers has specially trained experts to deal with **each** of the above concerns. You are not alone. **There are more options**. Set up a meeting with the teacher or call Total Learning Centers to set up a free, get-moving-in-the-right-direction, no-obligation consultation, or go directly to scheduling an in-depth child-friendly evaluation, but do **something now**. Limiting your **child's** homework from becoming **your** homework is one more way to help your child prepare today for success tomorrow.

For information on how you can help best prepare your child for success in school, call Total Learning Centers at (724) 940-1090 to discuss your own child's specific situation and needs. If easier, email us at success@TotalLearningCenter.com. Follow Dr. Carol Utay on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/carolutay>.

Total Learning Centers was voted AGAIN Best Tutoring and Best College Prep by Nickelodeon's Parent Picks.

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