

Homework Time Made Easier...And More Effective

Why do Teachers Assign Homework?

Teachers give homework because they strongly believe it reinforces what they are teaching in class and helps students learn. Teachers say:

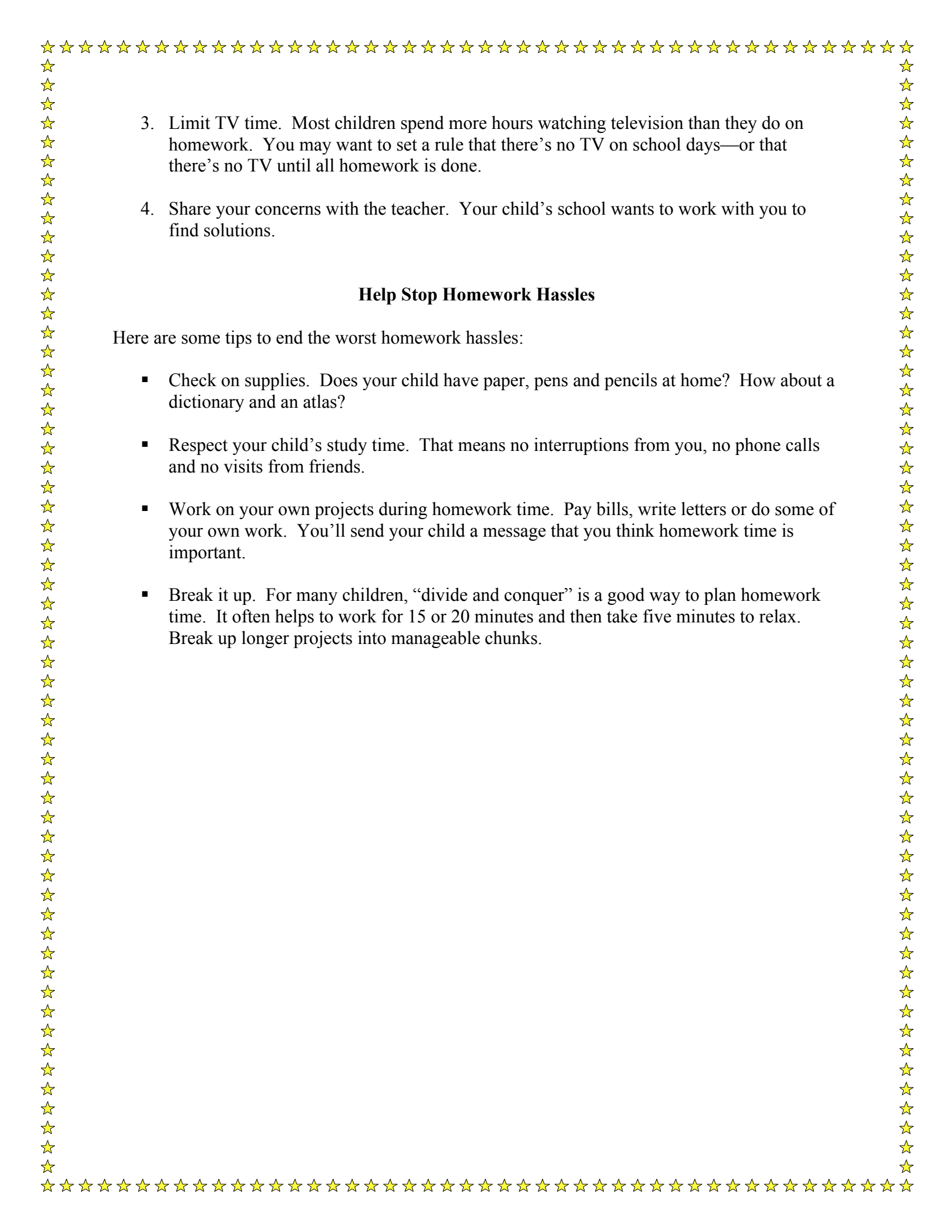
- Homework boosts achievement. If a student is having trouble with a subject, time spent on homework can often make the difference mastering a subject and just getting by.
- Homework builds self-discipline, independence, responsibility and time-management skills.
- Homework helps teachers see which students need help.
- Homework helps parents know what's going on in school. If you check your child's homework regularly, you'll have a good idea of what your child is learning.

What Can Parents Do to Help?

- ✓ Set a regular homework time. A regular study time helps children develop responsibility. When children get in the habit of studying each day, they learn to use their time better. Help your child find a schedule that works for him or her and for the family. Write the homework schedule on your calendar, just as you write down practice, lessons or classes.
- ✓ Let your child do the homework. If parents help too much, teachers can't see what a child is and isn't learning. You may need to help your child get organized. You may need to sit nearby so you can answer a few questions, but let your child do the work.
- ✓ When your child says there is no homework...declare that there is NEVER a no homework day. Even if no homework is assigned, your child can review for an upcoming quiz or test, do extra reading or get more practice with some math facts.

When Your Child Doesn't Have Time to Do All of the Homework...

1. Look at your child's after-school schedule. Some kids have schedules that are busier than a business executive. School is your child's most important job. Dropping an activity or two may give your child more time for homework.
2. Make sure 'study time' is spent on homework. Some kids waste a lot of homework time daydreaming. Some play games on the Internet. Stay nearby and check on your child for a few days. You may see ways to help put time to better use.

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3. Limit TV time. Most children spend more hours watching television than they do on homework. You may want to set a rule that there's no TV on school days—or that there's no TV until all homework is done.
 4. Share your concerns with the teacher. Your child's school wants to work with you to find solutions.

Help Stop Homework Hassles

Here are some tips to end the worst homework hassles:

- Check on supplies. Does your child have paper, pens and pencils at home? How about a dictionary and an atlas?
- Respect your child's study time. That means no interruptions from you, no phone calls and no visits from friends.
- Work on your own projects during homework time. Pay bills, write letters or do some of your own work. You'll send your child a message that you think homework time is important.
- Break it up. For many children, "divide and conquer" is a good way to plan homework time. It often helps to work for 15 or 20 minutes and then take five minutes to relax. Break up longer projects into manageable chunks.