

Help Your Child Get Organized

Tips for Elementary Parents

Being organized will help your child succeed in school, feel more in control, and be a better student. Here are some tips to help your child get organized.



Provide ways to organize papers.

Help your child use a system of folders and/or binders for organizing papers such as handouts, homework, and information that comes home from the school/teacher. You may want to consider having one folder for “home” and one for “school” for items that need to travel back and forth.

Have an area for homework.

Designate a place in your home for your child to study and do homework, and keep it stocked with any supplies they may need. Show your child how to keep this area neat and organized.

Eliminate clutter.

Encourage your child to periodically go through their backpack, homework area, folders, and binders and throw away any papers or materials they no longer need.

Develop routines.

Routines help the day run more smoothly for everyone. Have a nighttime routine that includes getting everything ready for the next day, and a morning routine that includes a good breakfast and getting to school on time. Also, create a schedule that makes homework a part of the daily routine.

Encourage planner use.

Even elementary-aged students can benefit from using a planner to keep track of assignments. If a planner is not provided by the school, help your child choose one that has plenty of writing space, and show them how and where to record assignments. Check periodically to make sure they are using it daily.

Create a homework plan together.

Help your child learn how to organize and prioritize their assignments. Ask your child what needs to be done, and then help them develop a plan.

If they have a large project or assignment to do, show them how to break it down into smaller, more manageable tasks.

Make to-do lists.

If your child has chores or tasks that are unrelated to school, work with them on making daily to-do lists. Show them how to cross tasks off as they complete them, and move any unfinished tasks to the next day's list. Older children can create a color-coding system to show which tasks are most important.

Be a good role model.

Your children are always watching, and they will take their organization cues from you. Model organization in your home and life by openly discussing each day's agenda, using a family wall calendar, keeping your own work area as neat and tidy as possible, and using to-do lists and/or a daily planner to keep track of everything you have to do.

For more tips on helping your child succeed in elementary school, watch this short video.

