

**THE ROLE OF HOMEWORK IN TEACHING CHILDREN
OF PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Abstract

The article illustrates the role of homework in teaching process and discusses how it can be effective for schoolchildren in primary school. In addition, the comments are given about doing homework.

Key words: Homework, class, pupil, teacher, successful homework.

Homework is generally major part of any class. In fact, it is set with the aim of assisting schoolchildren absorb and build on work done in class as well as to extend their learning time. Doing homework also helps children to becoming good independent learners on their way. Moreover, it is sometimes wasting time if it is not directed appropriately.

There are several reasons for doing homework which they are seen as following:

Firstly, homework helps the children to retain knowledge obtained during the lesson. That means that while pupils are doing assignments, it is a good way to repeat the theme not to forget.

Secondly, doing homework develops independent learning skills and improves problem-solving, self-discipline and factual information. If the kid studies at home as an individual learner, he can be quite better ready for the lesson than his peers, which can motivate him to make more effort too.

Thirdly, homework is an essential means of linking between different topics. It may be used to consolidate classwork, but also for preparation for the next lesson.

In addition, homework can be a bridge between school and home. At the same time, parents and teacher work together to get effective learning. The teacher explains the theme and it is revised at home by the help of parents. And importantly, home assignments are useful tools of assessment. Namely, instructors continuously check papers and find out their pupils' preparation for the lesson and understanding the theme.

Actually, there are various attitudes towards the term "homework". Most of the teachers complain about less attention and poor performance by children. However, comments on homework take up large amount of lesson time. Opposite to those opinions, many of children consider that homework is boring and irrelevant as well as pointless. For instance, most English lessons' tasks for home are just learning lists of vocabulary, writing essays and doing exercises in their workbooks. This is frequently claimed that it poses several problems for kids like losing interest and feels punished while doing homework.

Thinking about the aforementioned facts, it should be discussed about how to make homework be effective. When can they become effective? At first, some principles should be taken in order to make home assignments more successful. To illustrate this, children should follow the very rule like others in drawing a picture. And of course, the tasks should be manageable to complete. Otherwise, they are not understood and this occasion demotivates the kids if they do not achieve any target. That is why it is important to utilize methods and technologies according to young children's individual ability. Another necessary thing which teacher should remember is that pupils have to study other subjects. Therefore, there is a need for coordination to avoid overload.

Interestingly, children themselves have varied ideas for doing homework. Under this circumstance, teacher should encourage them to do any sized, colored, typed homework which is a good opportunity. And this is done with only one question by the

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teacher. Furthermore, by this method he can be informed about how much time the students have, what facilities they have at home, and what their preferences are. There are quite large numbers of homework today as we live in modern technology age. The common type is doing exercises in the workbooks. Other examples are writing compositions, learning rhymes or project works. There are also such exercises that kids should do them with parents, such as, creating a story, drawing, cutting and etc.

Problem solving is another essential skill child should learn the time they are faced to problems during completing their assignments, they figure out the way to resolve the issues, teaches them how to solve problems later in life. There are few disadvantages of homework too, which should be kept in mind by the school management and teachers as well as parents, for example:

- It makes children feel tired after spending a long day at school
- Even though it teaches to be responsible to children, but it brings about a lot of stress and anxiety too
- Doesn't allow them any free time to relax
- Children don't get much time to get involved in outdoor activities
- Sometimes homework isn't even relevant
- Students get tired of homework, hence don't involve in any educational games and books.

While we all agree that homework plays an important role in learning, but at the same time a child mustn't be burdened with floods of homework, it should be moderate, and a school should have a homework policy which dictates the type of homework task should be sent home and their frequency.

Hill, Spencer, Alston and Fitzgerald (1986) conducted a research and found that homework was positively linked to students' achievement. They determined that homework is improving student academic preparation without increasing staff or modifying curriculum which was considered to be an inexpensive method. They said:

"So, as the pressure to improve test scores continues to increase, so does the emphasis on homework" (p. 58). 142 school systems in North Carolina were contacted.

This study indicates that some type of homework is useful, since it is the assignment of higher cognitive types of homework and the flexible assessment and grading of that work in order to foster and track student learning.

The complexity and amount of homework that needs to be carried out obviously increases considerably as children progress through school. The amount of homework given to primary aged children varies, but they are likely to get some on a regular basis. Getting used to doing homework from an early age will definitely be an advantage, as children are more likely to continue doing so as they progress through their school years.

In some schools' authorities promote the use of homework diaries that are good for making a note of what kind of homework pupils are supposed to do. Without them, there are always some children who forget to write down the details or miss what was being said. Not submitting in any homework is likely to get them into trouble at school and is not a pattern or habit that they want them to caught up in.

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