

## ***Motivating Your Child***

### ***Keep your child motivated when she needs help***

It's good to be a "homework helper" when your child is very young or having difficulty in school. But be careful. Your child can become dependent on your help.

Always being there to intervene when your child gets stuck can keep her from developing the confidence and study skills she needs to succeed.

It's best to encourage autonomy, say education researchers. To wean your child from your constant attention:

- \* Tell her you enjoy helping her--but she must learn to do her own homework.
- \* Select one section of an assignment for her to do by herself.
- \* Ensure she knows what to do before leaving her to work independently. Help her with a concept, if needed. Let her do a few examples.
- \* Leave the room. Tell your child not to come for you until she's completed the section or answered all the questions. You won't look at her work before this.
- \* Have her do another section when she brings you the finished work.
- \* Gradually increase the amount of work your child does before checking with you.
- \* Reteach the concept if her work is totally wrong. Then have her redo the section.

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