

Homework/Study Skills

Give your child tools when reading for a research project

By third grade, your child may have to do research projects that require plenty of reading, and he'll probably need help from you. You can't read for him, of course, but you can make his reading more productive.

To start:

- * Look at the research together. Visit the library and find books about your child's topic. Practice using the table of contents, section headings and index. The glossary is a big help, too.

- * Introduce your child to new resources. If he hasn't used a dictionary, atlas or encyclopedia before, this might be the time to start. Talk about how information is presented, such as in alphabetical order.

- * Provide supplies such as sticky notes or bookmarks to save pages. Use index cards for jotting down key information. Remind your child to notice how para-graphs begin. The first sentence often sums up the main point.

- * Supervise online research and review how to use sources. For instance, it's not okay to "cut and paste" words into a project. Your child must put things in his own words and list his sources.

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