

TEACH YOUR CHILD HOW TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSIGNMENTS

He shows you the paper he's planning to hand in tomorrow. It's filled with misspelled words and unclear writing. What is your role here? Do you let your child take responsibility for the paper and turn it in as is? Or do you clean it up before it goes to the teacher?

Here are some dos and don'ts on how you can help with writing assignments. Do:

- * Help your child brainstorm about what to write.
- * Encourage your child to write a rough draft.
- * Answer questions about how to spell words. Write them down so he can copy them, or help him sound them out.
- * Let your child find errors. Say, "I see a place in the first three lines where a sentence should end. Can you find it and fix it?"
- * Praise your child for using interesting words. Say, "I love that you say the snow creaked under his shoes."
- * Encourage your child to write a neat final copy.

Here's what not to do:

- * Don't choose a topic for your child.
- * Don't do all of the proofreading for your child.
- * Don't write or type your child's paper, no matter how messy you may think it is.
- * Don't be afraid to tell your child there are some things you can't help with. Say, "Josh, I don't think Ms. Jones wants to see what I think about this subject. She wants to know what you think."

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