

or her strengths and weaknesses; the relationship between adult and child is saved, and the child performs better on school assignments.

- . Use a non-threatening approach. Children make mistakes in homework assignments. Instead of saying, “That’s wrong—here’s the right answer,” ask the child how he or she got the answer. When the child is asked to explain the thinking process about the answer, he or she often catches mistakes and is less discouraged. Another advantage of using this technique is that you can discover the mistaken logic behind the incorrect answer. **How does this tip help the child? The child becomes more secure in his or her own ability, and the caregivers are thought of as encouraging and supportive instead of threatening.**
- . Support the teacher. When you see problems with the amount or type of homework that teachers are assigning, make an appointment with the teacher to discuss the issue. Complaining to the teacher in front of the child can encourage the child to question the teacher’s competence and authority, creating discipline problems in school.

More than three out of four parents say they can help their children by discussing why discipline and a strong work ethic are important for everyone (World Book/NAESP study).

Remind them of rules. Praise them for playing fair, being a good loser, behaving kindly, or following rules at home and school. Everyone loses, including the child, when there’s no respect for rules. Have a great first week a new school year and an even greater new 4-H year. M.V.

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