

No More Homework Battles

Six Tips For Helping Kids Fall in Love With Learning

By Dr. Charles Fay

Battles over reading, writing, and arithmetic too often drive a wedge between parents and their kids. Many times these ongoing conflicts give youngsters a distaste for learning and send parents to bed at night wondering, "What are we doing wrong with this kid?"

The following tips are dedicated to creating happier homes, where children are free to fall in love with learning and parents no longer dread homework hassles:

Tip #1: Each evening, set aside a time for family learning.

This is a time for your children to do their homework and for you to model the value of learning by enjoying a book. The best way to create a love of learning in your kids is to show them how much you enjoy it.

Tip #2: Avoid battles by offering choices.

Research shows children are more likely to do their homework if they are given many small choices. For example:

- Would you rather do your homework right after school or wait until four o'clock?
- Are you going to do your homework in your room or at the kitchen table?
- Are you going to do all your homework right now, or are you going to do half now and the rest after dinner?

Tip #3: Help only when your child really wants it.

There is nothing that creates more homework battles than parents who "help" when help is not wanted. Try asking:

Would you like some ideas on that, or would you like me to leave you alone?

Your child's desire to do it alone is a very healthy sign of independence and responsibility.

Tip #4: Spend some of your time noticing what they do well.

DO NOT focus all of your attention on what your child does wrong! Allow your child to get help in those areas from their teachers. Successful parents spend energy noticing what their kids do well. They say things like:

- Show me the very best letter you made today. You really worked hard on that!
- Look at that math problem. You got it right!

There is nothing more destructive than stealing the struggle of learning by doing too much for your child. Each time they achieve something difficult on their own, their self-esteem soars and they are better prepared for the real world. Give these Love and Logic tips a try, and join thousands of parents who now have much happier, more responsible kids!