KIDS HOMEWORK THAT WORKS

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I’ve heard a lot of arguments between and among parents about their childrens’ homework after school. It’s a part of teachers’ lesson plan. Well needless to say, it may help students build study skills and acquired learning. Contrary, on the other side, we can find along the way that homework is disruptive and unnecessary. Their children were already exhausted to whole day school activities and discussions, then lots of assignments were assigned to them?

Let us do an actual observation to test. We can hear from parents and pupils themselves, that the issue is more complicated than most people think. We are not emphasizing here that homework is not essential to learners, of course, it is. This is just a valuable reminder for us, “how much is too much…”. We are dealing with elementary pupils, delicate and the very foundation, so careful checking of developmental considerations must be done while making an assignment.

Currently, we have 7 to 8 subjects in elementary grades. We can estimate; two to three quick minutes for an assignment per subject will be better for kids. What kind of assignment can you give? It can be a simple application of your recently taught lesson; coloring, counting, reading, basic utilization at home, depending upon the topic itself… As long as it promotes kids to think in their own ways, that’s great… Classroom teachers, surely know how… Therefore, it’s not just for completion of a part of each lesson plan, a strategical planning is really a must. Keep it light and leave room for family bonding and play. Why? Too much time to consume for 7 to 8 assignments per night can lead to; unhealthy stress levels, sleep deprivation, physical health problems among many others. Aside from they may lost their appetite to do so.
Not all pupils may have the equal opportunities to finish their assignment at home, so incomplete homework may not be true reflection of learning. It might be the result of various out of school problems they are actually facing. They maybe drastically hindered by noisy home, lack of parental / guardian’s support, no internet connections and the like. So it’s truly depending to teachers’ assessment to the totality of their pupils and full orientation of parents / guardians as well.

What’s the Kids’ Homework that works? Again, light & simple, can drive parents / immediate guardian’s right involvement. A thorough orientation to all parents / guardians is a great key... During regular meeting or even while having indirect conversation whenever teachers and parents meet along the way, we can share to them some coaching strategies like sighting actual scenarios. “I myself as a mother did observe my own kids when they were school beginners. They had felt the value of school assignments as I was asking them purposely.” “Show me please” and they were so eager to take from their bags.” Paying sincere attention as kids are telling that they have something to do from their lessons, or else, their enthusiastic interests will be gone, or they will have the early disappointments...

A homework that provides a feeling of achievement / success, and then followed by genuine appreciations, see how it works...