

How to help your child with their project work- A guide for parents

Every parent wants their child to get high marks and do well with their assignments. Did you know that project work teaches your child valuable skills such as working independently, researching, structuring, pacing and timing, organising, and presentation amongst other things! There is a fine line between guiding and helping them; and doing the project for them! Below are a few suggestions to help you get the balance right.

OKAY	NOT OKAY
Plan out a schedule with your child with times and days for getting each part of the project done.	Make a plan yourself and then write the times and dates in your child's planner or calendar.
Take your child to the library. Teach him how to use the catalog to search for books. Tag along as he finds the books he needs.	Take your child to the library, look up the books he needs on the computer while he watches. Get the books while he tags along.
Suggest search keywords for computer research. Help her print out the information she finds.	Type in keywords, find sites, prints them out while your child watches.
Ask questions about the way your child is organizing his projects. Point out places where things seem confusing.	Organize or outline your child's project for him.
Edit your child's work by pointing out spelling/grammar errors, sentences that are unclear etc.	Correct the mistakes in your child's work, rewrite as you see fit.
Buy supplies your child might need like a 3-fold display board or art materials.	Create elements for the project such as pictures, logos, diorama scenery etc.
Ask questions about how your child is choosing to arrange things, information included etc.	Require your child to rearrange or add things. Do it for your child.
Observe, advise, help with things that your child cannot do by herself such as use an electric drill or drive to the library.	Do anything that your child can do herself, even if you can do it better. Even if it will look, sound, be better if you do it. Even if you really, really want to.

(Table from: www.minds-in-bloom.com)

Remember it's much harder to let your child stand on their own two feet than to carry them; but better for them in the long run! Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions about your child's project work.