

## HINTS FOR PARENTS

Does your child sing the homework blues? Here is a list of suggestions to help you make homework time less stressful and more productive.

- **Create a homework kit.** Decorate a box and fill it with necessary supplies, such as pencils, erasers, rulers, a dictionary, counting beads, paper, glue, scissors, etc.
- **Create a homework zone.** With your child, identify a comfortable and well-lit place in your home to do homework. Decorate the area with your child's work or with an incentive chart.
- **Create a daily schedule for homework.** Encourage your child to do homework at the same time every day. Develop a routine, turn off the television and eliminate any other distractions during this time.
- **Do "adult" homework.** While your child is doing homework, perform tasks such as making dinner or opening the mail, to help your child realize that adults have homework, too.
- **Be a positive role model.** Your attitude about the work affects how your child sees it, so be make homework fun, not a chore.
- **Help your child develop organizational skills.** Work with your child to create a plan for completing assignments. Help your child organize his or her backpack and place it by the door for the next morning.
- **Watch for frustration.** Let your child take a break or move on to other assignments if one is causing frustration. Return later to work on the frustrating assignment together.
- **Remember it is your child's homework.** Be supportive, but let your child do the work. Simply providing the answers prevents your child from learning the material.
- **Talk with your child's teacher.** Make sure you understand the approach your child's teacher takes toward homework. Discuss your child's progress and address any concerns.
- **Encourage and reward.** Praise and reward your child's progress. Have your child place a star on the family calendar every time he or she completes all assignments. When your child collects 10 stars, recognize it with a reward, such as making his or her favorite dinner or taking a trip to the park.
- **Celebrate a homework-free day.** Saturdays are ideal for taking a break from homework to do a special family activity. Go for a hike, bake cookies or watch a favorite movie together.

