

Helping Your 4th Grader Succeed in School

The responsibility for completing their work lies in your child.

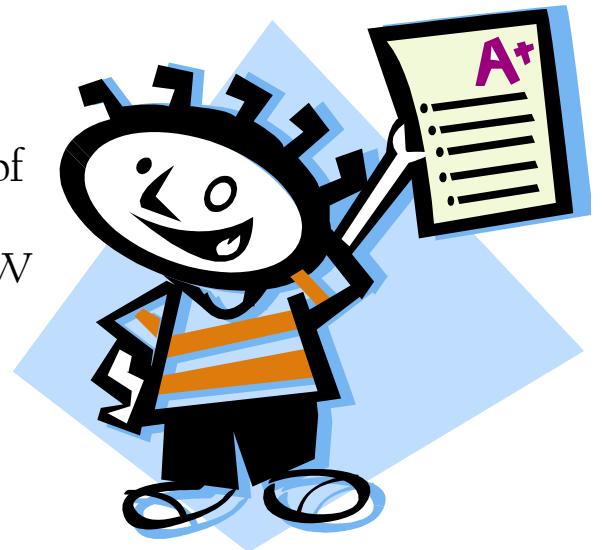
It is important to remember that the primary responsibility for completing work well is with your child. But it's also really easy for us to believe that when they don't immediately do that well, it's from stubbornness, or laziness, or lack of effort.

Begin with the assumption that it's not. Most kids want to do well. They certainly don't want to get in trouble and don't want to spend more time on their homework than they have to. Giving them the tools they need can improve homework quality while at the same time reducing the time it takes to complete it.

School's demands for organization may outstrip kids' abilities to do it.

Moving from class to class requires kids to rapidly adjust to the expectations of different teachers. Assignments are rarely as integrated as they are in elementary school or as teachers would like them to be. And the physical act of bringing home all those books and all those papers - and getting them back again - can be daunting.

Parents can help kids get organized by focusing on the **PROCESS** and **LOGISTICS** of school and not just 'helping with homework' and working on content. By focusing on **HOW** they do their homework (what time, what conditions) not the content of it, you let them keep control over it while giving them tools to manage it effectively themselves.



Some strategies that work...

1. **Check the student's planner frequently.** Make sure assignments are written down. Look for teacher signatures. Check the website if either or you are unsure. www.Aspira4thgrade.weebly.com
2. **Monitor their filing system.** Check your student's backpack, desk and room for misplaced papers that should be filed. Have the student file them correctly before indulging in recreational activities.
3. **Set up a homework area** supplied with common items such as paper, pens, white-out and so forth. Pick an area that is visible to the main area of the house but away from distractions such as television or high traffic areas.
4. **Create a routine for homework that is followed each night.** Enforce a minimum amount of time spent on schoolwork on a schedule that suits your family's lifestyle. When no school assignments are available, have your student practice important skills, do some additional reading, complete a writing project, educational games, or www.learningtoday.com.
5. **Get a large calendar.** Post it in a visible spot. Develop a step-by-step plan to complete large projects with due dates for each step before the project is due at school. Monitor progress on the project and follow through on the plan frequently.
6. **Set up a specific place to put completed assignments and other supplies for the next day.** Make sure your student gathers everything needed for the coming day before going to bed.
7. **Keep an eye on grades for each class.** Watch for missing assignments or consistently low test scores. Consult with the child's teacher to develop strategies to deal with problems before the report card shows a failing grade.

