

## Homework can be fun too!

By [Monica Rauth](#) | Nov 14, 2012

Homework can be made more interesting by relating topics learned in class to activities like research, project work etc.

Education has come a long way. The stick is no longer necessary and we have expanded far beyond the three Rs – Reading, (W)riting, and (A)rithmetic. Education today, is more comprehensive, aiming at the total development of the child, taking into account not only the child's aptitude but also its talents and traits. Educationists keep driving the point home that learning should be fun. Yet, we often come across complaints that today's school-going youngsters are overburdened with a heavy load of school work. Even at home they spend many hours completing homework which leaves them with little time for other creative activities. Lately, many journals have carried features on the burden of work carried home from school. This certainly gives teachers food for thought and introspection. There is little that a teacher can do about a heavy syllabus but proper planning in her annual, weekly, and even day-to-day activity can make a lot of difference. Sometimes in the rush to complete the syllabus before the examinations, part of the school work is given over to home tasks.

A good teacher will try her best to avoid this, as this is not really the best kind of homework. Regular learning has to go on but apart from this, the teacher can use her imagination to make homework more interesting and research-oriented. For instance, after a literature class, the children can be asked to find out more about the life and work of the author or poet they learnt about. The next day they can read out their findings to the class. The same can be done after a history lesson too.

A child opening a book or an encyclopaedia is finding out things for himself. Sharing with others what he has discovered will give him a sense of pride and confidence. Similarly, after a science class, children could be given the task of looking for unusual specimens of plants and writing down their observations. In mathematics, students in the primary classes can be asked to accompany their mothers to the grocery or vegetable vendor. They could be asked to 'interview' a vendor about his business – how much the vegetables cost him and how much he sells every day. They can then work out a sum in profit and loss that is based on these details. In economics, older children can find out the outputs of various products manufactured by various firms, list the products that are in demand in the market and the various reasons for this. They can prepare interesting quizzes on current international affairs and world markets. Projects in almost all subjects can be done by groups living in or near the same neighbourhood. Such homework can span a whole week.

Teachers can come up with many more ideas such as these. If homework is made more creative the little ones will not only be busy but have fun as well.

*This article, written by Monica Rauth, first appeared in Teacher Plus, Issue No.3, November-December 1989 and has been adapted here with changes.*

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**Grade/Standard:** Class 1-2

Class 3-5

Class 6-8

Class 9-10

Class 11-12

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