

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
School Administrative Unit #63

192 Forest Road Lyndeborough, NH 03082
603-654-8088

Bryan K. Lane
Superintendent of Schools

Betty Moore, M.Ed.
Director of Student Support Services

Lise Tucker
Business Administrator

Once a child has begun their formal education within any school system, developing good habits around preparation for school and for doing homework is very important. A child who begins their educational experience by creating good habits will tend to continue those actions as they progress through school and their work lives as well. Remember, bad habits are hard to break for everyone.

If we look at a child's job between the ages of 6 and 18 as being a student, what kind of environment does a student need to be successful in their home? To draw a comparison, what makes a work environment effective for an adult in any job? To name a few things; having the supplies you need, an environment that minimizes distractions, a place to work that allows a person do what is needed, and the ability to find resources when they are needed. Many of us used to do our homework at the kitchen table; it is a great place. It is big enough to spread out materials, usually pens and pencils are nearby and the lighting is pretty good. If there is a desk in your child's room, that is fine, but there is always the chance that they may be off task if they are out of sight. Creating a schedule to do school work can be helpful. You know your child best. Pick a time that makes sense and stick with it to create good habits. As a parent, you will eventually hear the statement, "I did my homework in school". If they have finished it, ask your child to show you the homework during the scheduled time. If they did finish, that is great. Time spent with a child is always a good thing; if not, you have provided a time for them to get it done.

If any of us is at work and has constant interruptions with phone calls, requests for information, or loud noises, it can be hard for us to get our work done. The same goes for a student working at home. Depending on the activity, some students may require quiet while for others, music playing in the background is not a bad thing. In the age of technology, distractions come in so many forms. Cell phones, texting, social media, and television can all create distractions that are not productive. If you create a scheduled homework time and space, make it a "no media zone" and have all devices turned off. Unless a student needs to access the internet to complete an assignment, unplugging for a while is a good thing. If this is a struggle, you can set the example by having everyone in your home unplug during scheduled homework time.

Helping with homework becomes more complicated over time. Sooner or later, there will come a time when the student's homework is something a parent cannot help with. If your child has homework you don't understand, have them explain it to you. Most of the time if they can explain it, they have an understanding of the material. If there is a textbook or workbook for the class, you can look at questions in the book and read them to see if the student knows the material. (Sometimes the answers are in the back of the book.) If you are directly involved with your child's education they will be more likely to see how important their education really is. Checking over homework with your child is always a good thing.

If good habits begin at an early age, it will be less likely that homework time will be a struggle as students get into middle and high school.