



Highway to Homework Heaven



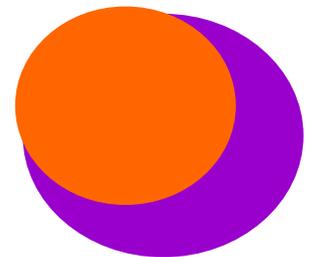
**Presented by
Nora Zamora, M.S.
Program Manager, After School Enrichment**

5/4/2009



Objectives

- Understand the benefits and barriers to homework completion in after school.
- Obtain ideas and tools for setting up an engaging and functional homework space in after school.
- Identify research-based strategies to help students with homework completion.
- Access high-quality homework support materials available for FREE loan from CASRC.



Opening Activity

Ways to Tutor Students with Homework



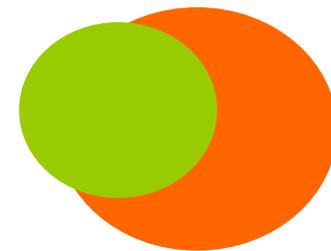
- Be patient
- Show sincerity
- Remain positive
- Offer feedback
- Guide to answers
- Model resourcefulness
- Consider needs and obstacles
- Help students learn how to ask questions

Homework Talk

Turn to someone and complete this statement:



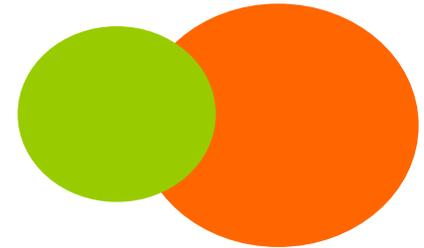
The purpose of homework is...





Purposes of Homework

- To reinforce new information and skills.
- To integrate knowledge and skills from various subjects.
- To introduce new information that will be covered in class.





What Research Says About Homework in Education

- + Homework supports academic achievement.
- Homework assignments are not always developmentally appropriate or engaging.
- + Homework benefits older youth the most.
- Homework overload can be counterproductive (leads to loss of interest in academics, stress, and lack of time for other activities).

Hynes, K., O'Connor, S., & Chung, A.M. (2001). *Homework Assistance & Out-of-School Time: Filling the Need, Finding a Balance and Literacy: Exploring Strategies to Enhance Learning in After-School Programs*. Nashville, TN: School-Age Notes.



What Research Says About Homework in After School

Essential Practices for Effective Homework Help:

- ① Involving Day Schools, Families, and Communities
- ② Managing and Organizing the Homework Environment
- ③ Monitoring and Communicating About Student Progress
- ④ Tutoring, Mentoring, and Building Study Skills

Johnson, T.S., & McComb, E.M. (2008). *Homework in Afterschool Literacy Review*. Retrieved March 20, 2009, from http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/about_toolkits.html?tab=homework

Managing and Organizing the Homework Environment



SEDL NATIONAL CENTER FOR QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL
ADVANCING RESEARCH, IMPROVING EDUCATION

AFTERSCHOOL TRAINING TOOLKIT

HOMework

Practice: **Managing and Organizing the Homework Environment**

The key goal of Managing and Organizing the Homework Environment is to create a "space for success" by setting up the physical environment, providing supplies, and managing daily schedules in ways that support program goals and help students learn.

Managing and Organizing the Homework Environment (6:16)

Watch as students work individually, with partners or in small groups, in both a classroom setting and a "quiet" room area, and get help with homework assignments from day-school teachers and graduate students.

[Need another video format?](#)

More About the Video

Afterschool Program
Hillside Elementary Afterschool Program, one of several school-based sites developed and run by the Family Resource Center, Gorham, New Hampshire

Location
Berlin, New Hampshire

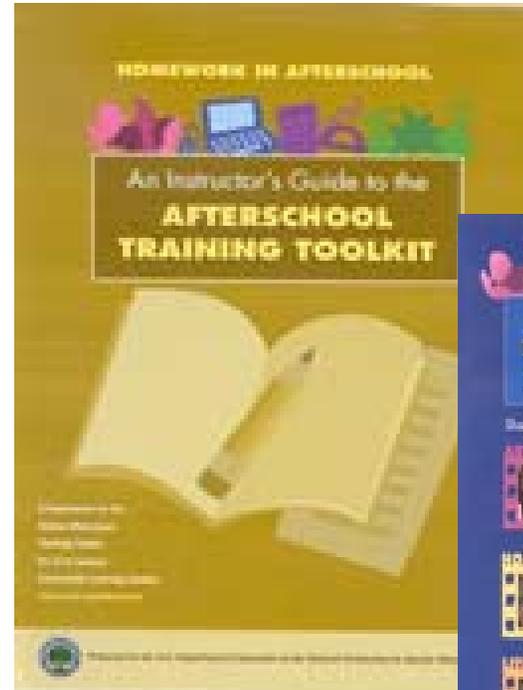
Facilitator
Barbara Demers, Sixth Grade Teacher

Time Allotted
1 hour (or more) per session

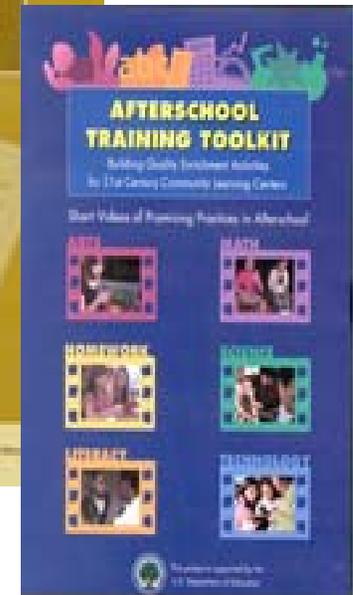
About the Session
Fourth through sixth grade students receive homework assistance in a range of subjects based on the daytime curriculum for that grade level. The afterschool homework environment accommodates group collaborative study and individual one-on-one help. In a classroom setting, desks are arranged so that students with similar work can help each other with the guidance of a qualified facilitator. There is also a quiet room where students work on an individual basis with a Title 1 instructor. All the students are encouraged to rotate between the classroom and quiet room to maximize their study experience. Students work at their own pace, and if they finish before the homework portion of the afterschool program is over, they can move to another room and work on education-based games, either individually or in groups.

Materials
Afterschool staff work with textbooks and other materials that students bring to the afterschool program to complete their individual homework assignments.

About the Curriculum
There is no specific homework curriculum. The homework is based on the assignments given by the students' daytime classroom teachers.



#7918



http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/about_toolkits.html?tab=homework

Create a “Homework Ambiance”

- Set up the environment to allow for:
 - ➔ A quiet, well-lit area for students to read, relax, or concentrate
 - ➔ Small- and large-group work
 - ➔ A menu of activities for students to choose from when done
- Establish a routine
- Organize essential materials for you and the students





Managing Groups of Students

<i>Arrangement</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Possible Purpose</i>
Peer Grouping	Similar age/grade	Grade-level tasks
Cross-age	Different age/grade	Buddy reading or tutoring
Similar skill level	Either similar or different age/grade	Partnering for language development or practice with math or other subjects
Tutoring	Small groups or 1:1 help	Targeted intervention or support with a task/skill



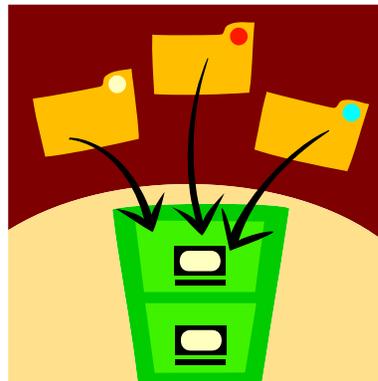
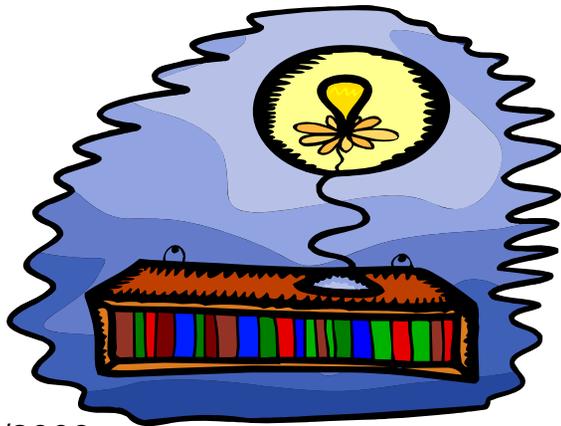
Do Your Homework First!

If you are a site coordinator or director...

- Survey regular-day staff, parents, and students to assess the needs for homework support.
- Establish regular meetings between regular-day and after-school staff to obtain information about classroom projects, homework assignments, or individual students' goals.
- Ensure access to regular-day pacing guides, adopted textbooks, teacher manuals, and other reference materials (e.g., spelling and vocabulary lists, required reading or literature lists, grade-level themes, etc.)

Build a Homework Survival Kit

You are going on a treacherous journey to conquer the horrifying Homework Beast who lurks in After School Jungle. You have the key to a file cabinet drawer, a dusty (but sturdy) bookshelf, and your wits. What will you do with these powerful weapons?





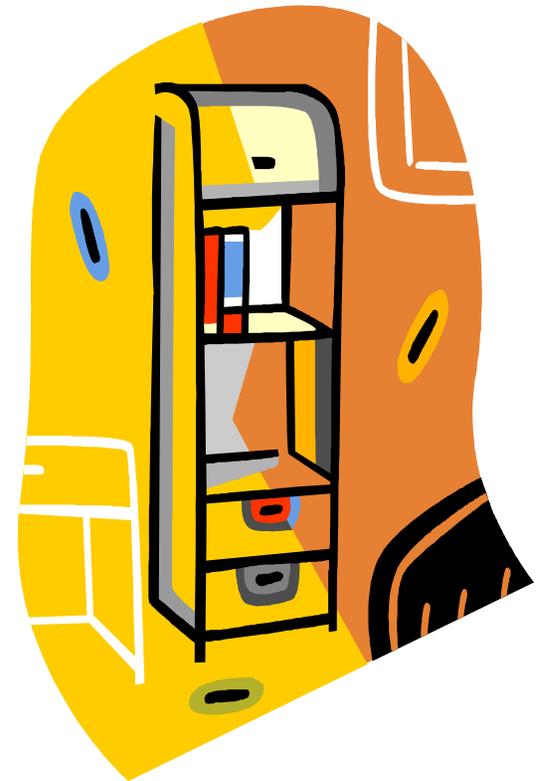
Build a Homework Survival Kit

In file folders or cabinets:

- Pacing guides
- Contacts
- Homework planning sheets or logs

On a bookshelf or designated area:

- Professional resources
- Supplies
- Study aids for students
- Educational games or videos



Interactive Activity



Homework Strategies

As presented by different groups
(based on interactive activity)





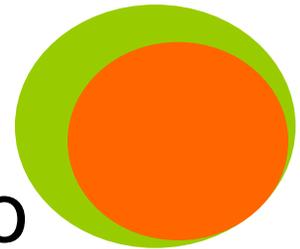
Reading “Tricks” to Facilitate Homework

1. Scan new material first (look at titles, headings and subheadings, bold font, and “marginalia” for key information).
2. Use SQ3R (Survey, Question, Read, Respond, and Review).
3. Read questions and main ideas before reading a chapter (read with a purpose).
4. Partner read (incorporate discussion).
5. Use graphic organizers (visual aids, such as charts or diagrams).



Concluding Activity

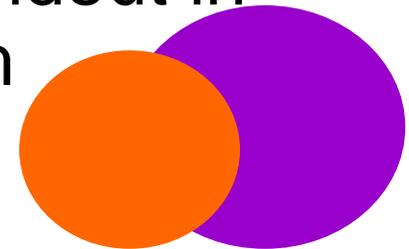
Use the scenario on your role-play slip to create a **short skit** with your team. Incorporate some of the **concepts from this presentation** into your script. You will have 5 mins. to practice. Then volunteers will present, and audience members will guess the scenario. **Prizes** will be awarded to actors and participants who guess correctly!



Showtime



See *Adventure...Plus Discovery!* Handout in your packet for using this activity with students.





FREE Access to After School-Appropriate Materials

California After School Resource Center

Home Resource Library Trainings Get Connected Program Administration Special Needs Physical Activity Nutrition FAQs

Registration Form
Material Review Board
Submit Materials
Review Criteria
High-Priority Needs
Request a Catalog

After School Equal Access Legal Update (PDF file)
Check out CASRC's Spring 2009 newsletter *In the Loop!* (PDF file)
CASRC can help your program pass the nutrition portion of Categorical Program Monitoring with our [Nutrition Web pages](#) and [Free Trainings](#)
[Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Youth Sports Participation and Educational Outcomes](#) (PDF)

Resource Library -- Search By Topic

- Behavior Management
- Health Services
- Injury & Safety
- Mathematics
- Mental, Emotional & Social Health
- More Enrichment Areas
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Program Administration
- Reading/Language Arts
- Violence
- Youth Development

CASRC resources are:

- User-friendly
- Standards-aligned
- Research-based



Toll Free 1-888-318-8130

Information (510) 670-4561

Fax (510) 670-4582

E-mail casrc@californiaafterschool.org

Web <http://www.californiaafterschool.org>