

Holden Christian Academy Presents

OUR BEST STUDY TIPS

SO FAR....

Parenting is much like being a detective. No child is a perfect learner and analyzing their style to maximize study and work time is very important. Some kids need absolute quiet to learn, others do better in the family room with others around. No two learners are exactly alike. Only about 25% of students can learn by reading over their notes several times, but this is exactly what many parents and kids consider to be studying. 75% need to be active, especially in the evenings when they are tired. Below are some suggestions for active studying and homework. Try them out and see what works with your child. Communicate with your child and help him/her to figure out how they learn best so that they can understand their own style and put themselves in situations that will work to their advantage.

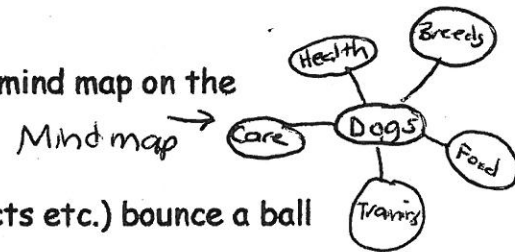
1. Attach a large white board or chalk board to a wall; let your child "teach" you, a sibling, the dog, or an imaginary class, using their notes. (Standing, using shoulder to write on a vertical plane and verbalizing, all help facilitate learning)
2. Let your child make a quiz on the board for him/her self- words on one side, definitions on the other, lines to connect the correct one, etc.
3. Make "visual representations" of material, like Venn diagrams for comparisons, timelines for sequencing events, comic strip boxes for parts of a story etc. Books containing sample 'visual organizers' are available at bookstores (in the teachers' sections). These are extremely helpful for visual learners.
4. When learning a more abstract concept, help your child make a connection to something familiar in an analogy or metaphor. "Liberty is

like.....because.....," or "Liberty reminds me of ". They have to truly understand the concept to do this.

5. When learning vocabulary, students can list the words down one side of the page or board and write from memory the definitions down the other side. Then erase the words and rewrite them from memory.

6. When memorizing a passage (memory verse, lines for a play, Declaration of Independence, etc.) either you or the child can write it on the white board and read it. They then erase one word and read it again. Erase, read, erase, and read, until all the words are gone and there are only spaces. Most kids know the verse by that time. (Adults may need to do it twice!)

7. When outlining is required, let your child make a mind map on the whiteboard first to categorize their thinking.



8. When rote memory is required (multiplication facts etc.) bounce a ball back and forth with someone who knows the table being learned. The adult says "2 times 3", the child says "6"; if the child doesn't know the answer immediately the adult supplies the answer and asks the same again. The ball can't be caught, but must stay in continual bounce mode. Keep doing this with the child using about 85% of facts the child knows. Add new ones slowly, supplying the correct answers. It works like a charm! (Prayer?)

9. Prime the pump with your child for new skills or books. Read the first few pages or chapter together until your child is "caught" and has a gist of the story or skill, then turn it over to them. Help with the first few math problems etc.

10. Keep an index card in literature books with the names of the characters and who they are (can draw a family tree if helpful). Use this as a bookmark and review before new reading or as needed during reading.
11. Listen to books on tape! We do this as we commute each day and have already "read" three extra books this year. This is great for listening skills, vocabulary development, comprehension and pure enjoyment. It also makes the trip go faster. Most libraries have or can get tapes for you.
12. Make up funny hints for learning data; the sillier the better. We pictured a giant hand on a ball riding an elephant over a mountain. What were we studying? Hannibal crossing the Alps on elephants to invade the Romans, of course!
13. Using familiar tunes, make up a song or commercial to remember difficult facts. I did this in college to remember brain anatomy!
14. Make a tiny sheet; consolidating the most important information in a small space helps to prioritize the most important facts.
15. If your child is a poor speller, make up a funny hint like
ARITHMETIC= a rat in Tom's house might eat Tom's ice cream.
16. Use acronyms like HOME for memorizing the great lakes-Huron, Ontario, Michigan and Erie.
17. Make good use of the "helps" built into textbooks. Key words are bold, questions are at the end of chapters, most texts are full of pictures, graphs and charts.
18. Try not to get exasperated. The teacher really did explain it a different way and anxiety blocks learning. If your child isn't getting

it, become detectives together and analyze where the learning breakdowns or where the glitches are. Kids often know what they don't get, often they are embarrassed to admit it. If you can't figure out how to help, write a note to the teacher and ask for ideas. Your "undercover work" will be beneficial to the teacher.

19. Remember...Einstein couldn't spell well! Many brilliant people had learning glitches, couldn't spell and overcame great obstacles. Your child can and will learn.

20.If you have tried everything, your child has studied hard,and is now melting down.....send him/her to bed and write a note to the teacher explaining the problems. Mercy is often granted to those who have tried their best!