Homework Tips for Parents:

Has homework become a daily battle? Here are tips for getting back on track...

- —Have a well-lit, organized desk for doing homework.
- —As much as possible, try to stick to a set routine.
 - If your child knows that homework time is from 3pm to 5pm everyday, there will be less resistance to doing the work.
 - Set aside extra time for big projects and term papers, like weekends.
- —Try to create a quiet environment with few or no distractions: no television, no little brothers or sisters coming and going, etc.
 - Make sure the desk contains only the material being worked on nothing else!
- —Prepare all needed material for the specific subject in advance.
- —If possible, try to do the same type of task as your child: Write when they write; read while they read.
- —If your child needs help, give guidance, not answers! Always be willing to help but wait for your child to request it.
 - Being there to help shows you're interested and lets the child know that what he or she is doing is important.
- —Your homework is to always be aware of your child's assignments and due dates.
- —Tackle the tough tasks first. If they're put off, they'll only get psychologically harder to do as your child gets more tired.
- —Having trouble concentrating? Take a break! It's healthy and refreshing for the brain. While breaking, go for a walk or eat a light snack.
 - Be sure to decide up front how long the break will be and stick to it.

Last, but not least: Give your child a little pat on the back from time to time. Take him/her to the park, play ball or go to the movies, once the homework is completed. S/he will appreciate the reward, and understand that hard work pays off.