

## Education Topics

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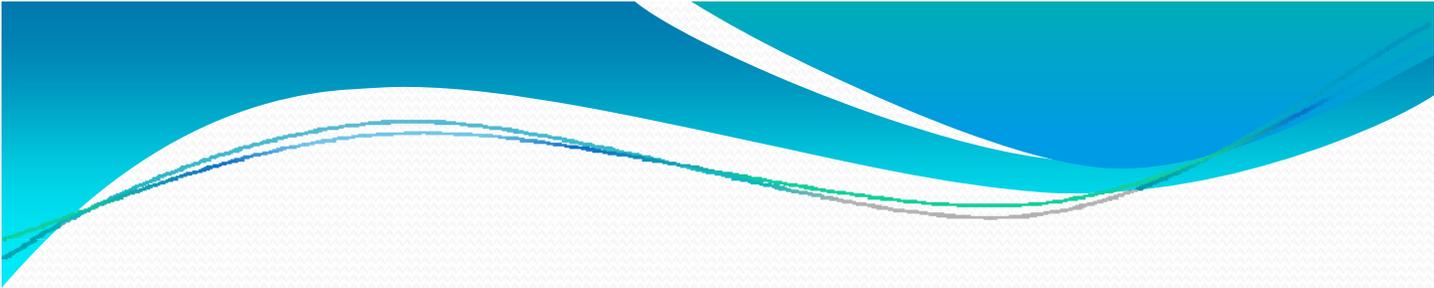
# THE PARENT HANDBOOK

For Immigrant Parents of Children  
in New York City Public Schools

Created by the Students of the English and Family Literacy Program  
PM Group C



Fall 2009  
Center for Immigrant Education and Training  
LaGuardia Community College



This Parent Handbook project was made, inspired by the We Are New York episode “Welcome Parents.”

If you would like to watch the episode, visit [www.nyc.gov/learnenglish](http://www.nyc.gov/learnenglish)

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## Common Problems & Possible Solutions

We wrote our own questions about our children's education. Then we read everybody's questions and made suggestions for one another.

After that, we voted for the most common problems.

An asterisk mark \* indicates one vote.

- How can I help my son prepare for tests? \*\*\*\*\* (10)
- My son gets stressed when he has a math test. How can I help my child with a math test? \*\*\*\*\* (8)
- I am worried because my son is not interested in school. I want my son to get a high school diploma. What can I do? \*\*\*\*\* (7)
- How can I help my child with homework? I feel very worried about her because it is very difficult for me. \*\*\*\*\* (7)
- My daughter feels worried because sometimes the teacher sends her a lot of homework. How can I help my child with homework? \*\*\*\*\* (7)
- My son needs to read every night. How can I motivate him to read every day? \*\*\*\*\* (6)
- How can I make sure my child understands math problems, not memorize? \*\*\*\*\* (5)
- My child doesn't want to do the homework. I have to open his backpack every day to check his homework. I am worried and stressed. What can I do? \*\*\* (3)
- My daughter doesn't like to do homework and she talks with her friends on the phone all the time. What can I do? \*\* (2)
- My son is a very good student and he goes to after school. When he returns home, I want him to study more at home but he doesn't like to do it. \*\* (2)
- My son is a good student but doesn't want to go to school and doesn't like his teacher. What can I do? \*(1)

Problem:

“How I can make my child interested in continuing his education?” (Grade 10)

Suggestions:

- Go to the library very often.
- Go to the school and speak to the Principal and Teacher to have extra hours for the child for more education or practice.
- Talk with your son.
- Find the professional help.
- Talk to him about How difficult in going to be to find a job if he doesn't study.

### Problem:

“How can I help my daughter? She does not like to do homework and she talks all the time with her friends in the classroom?” (Grade 8)

### Suggestions:

- Put rules to her first homework and then she can talk to your friends.
- Give some gifts when her daughter finishes totally the homework.
- Make her interest to do homework.
- Talk with your daughter and explain study is very important for her life.
- Check the homework every day and cancel the phone.
- Explain your daughter the important the study.



Problem:

“How can help my child with learn alphabet and number?” (Grade K)

Suggestions:

- When she play with him she should teach number by counting
- Example how many times you throw a ball at me.
- Write letters and numbers on a piece of paper and taped all around the house.
- Crossword puzzles.
- Buy funny and educational plays and books.
- Practice more with your child.
- Go to the library.



### Problems:

“How can I help my son study for the test? How can I help my son do the homework? My son’s grade is 10 and he has a long day in the school so he has eight period everyday I ask the question him. Do you have the homework? Do you study for the test? I know that he is very quiet and I feel worried for my son.” (Grade 10)

### Suggestions:

- Do the homework together every day.
- Review and sing the homework.
- Call to counselor and ask the questions about your son’s homework.
- Study the before the test.
- Review the S.T.B with her son.
- Practice with him the most difficult and then ask him questions about math they were practicing.
- Practice test on the website.
- Search for tutoring.

## Problem:

“How can I motive my child to read more?” (Grade 5)

## Suggestions:

- Find some comics books
- Read books of his own interest
- Read a book to him
- Read the books together and when end ask the questions
- Buy the books interesting for him
- Go to the library
- Read everyday with him at night and least one hour
- Make a family reading time every day.
- Read while your child reads



### Problem:

“My child is not interested in doing homework. How can I help my child?  
(Grade 4)”

### Suggestions:

- Make the homework together and made something funny.
- No more Internet, before finish the homework.
- Cancel the games until her son big better.
- Turn off TV until her son finish his homework.
- Study more and watch TV less every day.
- Do home work with break for play time.
- Do homework together.

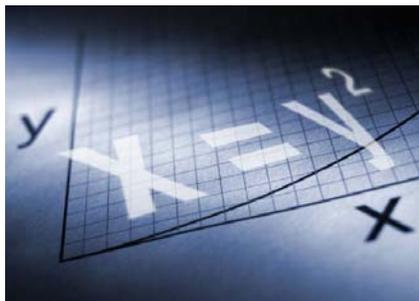


## Problem:

“How can I help my child with math (algebra)?” (Grade 8)

## Suggestions:

- Practice more with his child
- Find tutoring for his son.
- Go to the library with her child and get help from the library’s tutor.
- Ask for extra help for specific problems.
- Find online web resources such as questions about algebra.
- Find out your son’s math text book’s title and publisher. Then go to the website of the publisher to find exercises.
- Find more resources (internet) or call Dial Teacher.



### Problem:

“My son is good student, but I want him study more at home, but he doesn’t like it.”

### Suggestions:

- Buy educational plays and every night play tougher.
- Speak with your son and explain the most important is understand, not memorize.
- Reward your son when he gets a good report card
- Practice with you and ask him questions.

## Parents' Dialogues

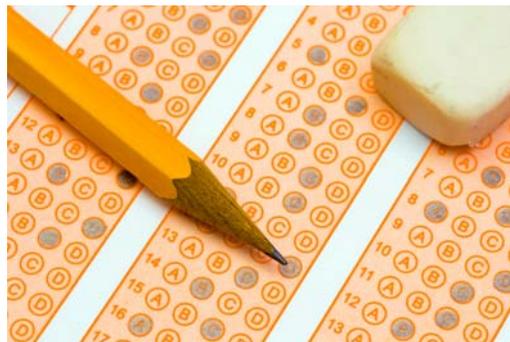
We created the dialogues of parents'  
Talking about the common school-related problems

1. How can I help my son prepare for tests? \*\*\*\*\* (10)

Parent: Hi Ms. Pearson. How can I help my son prepare for tests?

Guidance Counselor: I recommend you visit this website [www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/testsample](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/testsample) for extra practice and also take these sample tests. You can have your child practice with his the best friend because two brains are better than one and practice makes perfect.

Parent: Thank you for your help.



2. My son gets stressed when he has a math test. How can I help my child with a math test? \*\*\*\*\* (8)

Parent: Kevin gets stressed when he has a math test. Can you give him extra help with math?

Teacher: Of course. I can help him after school for 40 minutes. I am going to talk to Kevin what day he would like to stay.

Parent: Thank you.

(After school)

Parent: How was the tutoring session with Ms. Mbaye?

Child: It was good. Now I understand better.



3. How can I help my child with homework? I feel very worried about her. Sometimes I can't help her because it is very difficult for me. \*\*\*\*\* (7)

Parent: I would like to help my child with his homework but sometimes, I don't understand the homework and it is difficult for me.

Teacher: The school offers after school for 3 hours a day. The other option is talk with the guidance counselor for tutoring. You can have tutoring at your home on the weekends for two hours.

Parent: Oh, that's great. Thank you very much.



4. I am worried because my son is not interested in school. I want my son to get a high school diploma. What can I do? \*\*\*\*\*(7)

Parent: Hi my dear son. How was your school today?

Son: Oh! It was OK. Now I'm tired.

Parent: Can we talk now?

Son: Yes, of course.

Parent: Do you know what will happen if you don't get your High School Diploma?



Son: Not really, but can you tell me about that?

Parent: Ok, life is hard. Many people who don't get a high school diploma don't get good opportunities for good jobs. They need to do hard work and get a little money.

Son: Ok, mom. Now I understand the situation. I promise to you I will do my best.

Parent: Ok my darling I know you can be whatever you want to be and I know you are going to get your High School Diploma.

Son: Thank you so much for your patience with me.

Parent: Don't worry. Be happy. I will be here for you.

5. My son needs to read every night. How can I motivate him to read every day? \*\*\*\*\* (6)

Parent: Hi Ms. Garcia How are you?

Teacher: Hi Mr. Hanna I'm fine. Thank you.

Parent: I have a question about my son. Can you help me?

Teacher: Sure. What is your question?

Parent: My son needs to read every night because it is his homework. How can I motivate him to read every day?

Teacher: What kind of books does he prefer to read?

Parent: He is interested in animals, especially in dinosaurs.

Teacher: Ok, Mr. Hanna. That's good. You can go to the library and select some books about animals. Then sit with him and read together.

Parents: Ok. I'll try your suggestion. Thanks.

Teacher: You are very welcome and good luck.



6. My daughter feels worried because sometimes the teacher sends her a lot of homework. How can I help my child with homework? \*\*\*\*\* (7)

Parent: Hello Ms. Patricia papas.

Teacher: Hi Ms. Sanchez.

Parent: I have a question. My daughter is doing homework for 4 hours every day. She feels so tired, especially with math homework.

Teacher: Oh I am sorry to hear that. That is what every child is doing. She can get help with math through the extended day program with math for 30 minutes every day.

Parent: Thank you.



## Questions to Ask for the Teacher at Parent-Teacher Conferences

We practiced the questions from Welcome Parents and made our own questions to ask for our children's teachers at parent-teacher conferences.

## Questions from *Welcome Parents*

- HOW CAN I HELP MY SON WITH HIS READING?
- CAN YOU PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN?
- IS MY SON DOING HIS HOMEWORK?
- CAN I GET MY DAUGHTER'S REPORT CARD IN SPANISH?
- DOES HE ASK QUESTION IN CLASS?
- CAN I HAVE AN INTERPRETER?
- IS THERE ANY EXTRA READING I CAN GIVE MY SON?



## Our Own Questions

1. How can I help my son with his homework?
2. Is my daughter raising her hand in the class?
3. How can I help my daughter go to the sleep early?
4. Does my son participate in class?
5. How does she behave in school?
6. Is she on time for your class?
7. Do you have any suggestion for my son?
8. Is my son respecting the rules in the class?
9. Can I talk to the guidance counselor?
10. Is my son improving in math?
11. How can she get more tutoring?
12. How can I help my son do his homework?
13. How can I help my daughter with the math test?
14. How can I help my son to prepare for the next test?
15. How can I get extra help with my daughter's homework?

## Websites for Parents Rated by Parents

We visited six educational websites and rated each one of them. The New York City Department of Education and ARIS Parent Link received the best ratings of all.

★ ★ ★ (11)

- This website is good for students and parents.
- Because it can help me how can I found anything about my son' school.
- This website offer special programs that the school has for the students.
- I founded important information about high schools.
- Because I founded a lot information.
- It's important because I can find information about the different schools.
- Because you compare with others publics schools.
- Those who don't know what kind of school is good for their child.
- I think this is good but a like more information in Spanish.
- It's easy to understand.
- It's important because here you find the date for test.

★ ★ ☆ (0)

★ ☆ ☆ (1)

- I do not understand

★ ★ ★ (8)

- It gives important information about my child.
- I find good information about my daughter.
- The page is very important because I can find the academic progress of my son.
- I can look my child's absents and scores.
- It's very important for us because we can to see How our children are going in the school.
- It is a very helpful website for parents.
- It is information for parents and children.
- I think is helpful website because you can see the progress for our child.
- This page including information about my daughter.

★ ★ ☆ (0)

★ ☆ ☆ (0)

★ ★ ★ (6)

- It has a lot of tests for practice.
- This website has a lot of helpful information.
- In this website I can find the dates for the tests.
- The city encourage our children to improve
- This website offers activities, libraries that help to information.
- It has a lot of tests for students to practice.

★ ★ ☆ (1)

- We can use to practice before the tests.

★ ☆ ☆ (1)

- I found nothing interesting.

★ ★ ★ (8)

- It's good for helping homework.
- It is very good because it assists as quickly and efficiently this hour.
- Help to find the answers.
- This website can help the homework because it has different topics.
- You can play and learn at the same time.
- Excellent help in the homework
- It is funny website, you can refresh the some knowledge

★ ☆ ☆ (0)

★ ☆ ☆ (1)

- Because I didn't understand it well.



★ ★ ★ (8)

- I can compare my son's school with others.
- I can find better school for my son.
- It's good because I find information about the schools.
- Because it is very important and interesting.
- In this page I can find schools, offices, programs, rules and activities.
- All information in there is clear.
- This is good because this is complete.
- Because you can find the appropriate school for my son.
- Because I learn about high school.
- Because have a lot information for parents.

★ ★ ☆ (2)

- I need more information.

★ ☆ ☆ (1)

- I can't find information.

★ ★ ★ (5)

- It has good resources for the investigation (Dictionary etc).
- Everybody can find much information about all projects.
- It is easy to find what you are looking for.
- This is a good page, because they have a lot of information.
- This website has much information and brings help for my children in their homework.
- Because is the excellent tool to help to solve problem with my son.  
You can use any time is very easy

★ ★ ☆ (4)

- I don't understand everything.
- Because used different for math.
- It is excellent tool for help to solve some problem with my son homework.
- Because it has a lot of information about how I can do the homework with my son.

★ ☆ ☆ (2)

- Not really understand this website.

## Websites for Homework & Fun

We interviewed our children what websites they are using for school work and fun. The number in parentheses indicates a number of children using the website.

## High Schools

### For School Work

1. Google [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) //// (4)  
To search anything, websites, pictures, articles, etc. for homework
2. Wikipedia [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) To look for articles. /// (3)
3. AltaVista [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com) / (1)  
To find my homework and pictures for my projects
4. Dictionary.com [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) / (1)
5. Webster Dictionary [www.webster.com](http://www.webster.com) / (1)
6. Newcomers High School <http://newcomershs.schoolwires.net> / (1)
7. LaGuardia Blackboard Site <http://bb.laguardia.edu/> (1)

### For Fun

1. [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) To chat with friends, net working // (2)
2. [www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com) To view and good music. / (1)
3. [www.aol.com](http://www.aol.com) / To chat with friends / (1)
4. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) For music & videos. / (1)
5. [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com) / To e-mail / (1)
6. [www.freeonlinegames.com](http://www.freeonlinegames.com) / (1)
7. [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com) / (1)
8. [www.rhapsody.com](http://www.rhapsody.com) To listen to music / (1)

## Middle Schools

### For School Work

1. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Google help me with any questions I have / (1)
2. [www.Wikipidia.com](http://www.Wikipidia.com) Wikipedia you can find information of anything. / (1)
3. [www.Ask.com](http://www.Ask.com) you can ask a question and you will find links that answer it. / (1)

### For Fun

1. [www.maxgames.com](http://www.maxgames.com) you can play games. / (1)
2. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) you can watch videos online. / (1)
3. [www.freeonlinegames.com](http://www.freeonlinegames.com) you can play free online games / (1)

## Elementary Schools

### For School Work

1. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to use sometimes for language tool. /// (3)
2. Wikipedia [www.wikipedia.org/](http://www.wikipedia.org/) homework and consult). / (1)
3. Yahoo [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) / (1)
4. Dictionary [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) translator / (1)
5. [www.venezuela.com](http://www.venezuela.com) we use to find information for my child project. / (1)
6. Eduplace [www.eduplace.com](http://www.eduplace.com) / (1)

### For Fun

1. Cartoon Network [www.cartoonnetwork.com](http://www.cartoonnetwork.com) for play some games. // (2)
2. Star doll [www.stardoll.com](http://www.stardoll.com) / (1)
3. Mills berry Disney [www.millsberryworld.com](http://www.millsberryworld.com) / (1)
4. YouTube [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for music videos and comic videos / (1)
5. Face book [www.facebook](http://www.facebook) for chat with a family and friend / (1)
6. [www.plays.com](http://www.plays.com) for plays / (1)
7. Disney Channel [www.disneychannel.com](http://www.disneychannel.com) // (2)
8. PBS Kids [www.pbskids](http://www.pbskids) / (1)

