

11. Study Strategies

Homework and home study can be accomplished more effectively and efficiently if students use different strategies to help them in their learning.

You can improve your teen's literacy skills by giving them as many opportunities as possible to explain and discuss ideas. Using homework and study assignments as a starting point for conversations can be a great way to strengthen communication between you and your teen.

Here are some of the strategies you can share with your teen:

1. Use all **modes** for learning: visual, auditory and kinesthetic/tactile modes, or seeing, hearing and doing. Find your preferred mode or modes. Ideally, a person learns best if all modes of learning are developed and used.
2. Think about what strategies helped you learn and retain information in the past and apply these strategies again.
3. Make study notes:
 - Highlight or underline notes while reading.
 - Write key words in the margin.
 - Write brief study summaries.
 - Colour-code for quick review: vocabulary in green, definitions in pink, facts in yellow, etc.
 - Mark information you don't understand.
4. Develop questions:
 - Select key areas to be learned.
 - Make questions about the material in those areas.
 - Work out answers for the questions.
 - Study the answers.
5. After studying sections of material, stop and summarize what you've learned in your own words.
6. Go back to what was not understood and seek help from a parent, teacher or online.
7. Use **mnemonic** strategies (memory associations).
For example:
Science: **Roy G Biv** (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet (the colour spectrum)
Spelling: **words within words:** to/get/her for together
a rat: in separate
funnies: dessert/desert—you want more dessert than desert, so you need two s's
Social Studies: north, east, south, west—
never eat soggy wieners