

# Homework Wars

How to Win the Battle



**Bonnie Terry Learning**

Giving students tools to succeed for over 18 years

The Secrets To Stopping the Homework Wars and To Getting  
Your Children To Do Their Homework Every Time



## **Bonnie Terry, M. Ed.**

As you know, I've been an educator: educational therapist and learning disabilities specialist for over 38 years and a mom for over 30 years, and I've finally figured it out the *Secrets To Stopping the Homework Wars* and *To Getting Your Children To Do Their Homework Every Time*.

### **Certified:**

Bonnie Terry, M. Ed., BCET, Board Certified Educational Therapist #10167; Bonnie is internationally recognized as *America's Leading Learning Specialist*

### **Programs, Games and Guides:**

Bonnie Terry has authored over 15 tools to ease the learning process to help create successful students that grow into productive adults.

# **Homework Wars: Problems and Solutions**

## **Part I**

### **Strategies That Solve Your *Homework Wars***

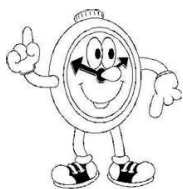
## **Problem: Problem: Your child procrastinates about doing their homework**

### **Solution:**

#### *When:*

Establish daily homework time. Give your child limited choices. Offering them choices gives the child a stake in their work. It gives them a sense of control over themselves. Only give them choices that are acceptable to you. For instance ask your child if he/she wants to begin their homework at 4:30 p.m., before dinner, or at 7:00 p.m., right after dinner? You noticed that I didn't give a suggested choice of 9:00 p.m. That choice would not be an acceptable one to me because then my child would be tired and not working at his/her optimum and he/she would be up too late doing it.

#### *How Long:*



Ask your child how much time they think they need to do their homework: 45 minutes or an hour? Asking your child how long they think it will take them to complete his/her homework helps them to realize that it won't take them all night to do it. This is also an opportunity for your child to run through their assignments with you so you know whether they have math, spelling, writing, or social studies

homework. Sometimes my children forgot an assignment until I asked them, "Don't you have any math tonight?"

#### *Where:*

Ask them if they would like to sit at the kitchen table, work in the family room, or in their room to do their homework. It is a good idea to suggest study areas where your child will be comfortable and distraction free. The *place* they do their work isn't as important as the fact that it is away from distractions.

#### *No homework:*


If your child doesn't have any homework, that time can be set aside for reading a book or some other learning activity. It is important to have your child doing some sort of reading or learning activity when they don't have homework to not only keep that pattern of learning that you are creating, but also to open the world of self learning to your child. People in general tend to do low level activities unless they have clear defined goals. So to ensure greater success for your child, keep homework time a time of productivity and learning even when he/she doesn't have a specific homework assignment.

## **Problem: Your child stays up too late to do their homework**

### **Solution:**

Most of the time, if your child has adhered to the set homework time, staying up too late will not be a problem. The difficulty comes up when either evening activities might interfere with homework time, or a long project has been assigned. Students in the elementary grades are typically not great at time management skills. As parents we need to remember this. When we take into account this factor it is easier to help our children learn to chunk projects and schedule in time to do them. Using a daily and weekly planning calendar with after school and evening hours on it helps. A comprehensive easy to use planner for elementary and middle students is in [\*Ten Minutes to Better Study Skills\*](#). \*

## **Problem: Your child doesn't understand the directions, and sometimes you don't either**



*"Using a daily and weekly planning calendar with after school and evening hours on it helps."*

### *Solution:*

#### *Are your children reading the directions?*

A key piece to doing homework is to be sure your children are reading the directions. It always amazes me as a teacher to see my students just plow right into the page, often getting questions wrong, simply because they haven't read the directions. So, first have your child read the

directions to you. Then ask him/her what the directions are telling them to do.

#### *Do your children understand the directions?*

If they didn't understand the directions, you can help explain them to your child. It is helpful to have your child underline the key words in the directions to be sure they know what to do (e.g. underline the words, circle the pairs, draw a line from one to the matching words, fill in the blank using the list words, etc.). Go through one or two of the problems or question with them to be sure they understand what to do. Then they should be able to continue the work on their own.

If you can't figure out the directions either, you might want to call one of your child's classmates to see if they understand the directions. Or, you can always write a note at the top of the paper for the teacher to read the next day.

There are many easy reference guides available to help with writing projects and math homework. We believe the most effective and comprehensive guide for writing projects is the [\*Writer's Easy Reference Guide\*](#). \* For math homework the

most comprehensive and effective reader friendly guide is the [BT Easy Math Reference Guide.](#) \*

**Problem:**            **Your child doesn't tell you what their assignments are or they know they have an assignment, but can't remember what it is**

*Solution:*

*Homework buddies:*

Every year your child should have a few homework buddies, friends they can call for assignments. At the beginning of each school year I asked my children to get the names and phone numbers of three classmates so they could call them if they need to find out what their assignments are. If you are new to the school your child is attending, you can ask the teacher for help with this. If you have tried everyone you can think of and still can't find out what the assignment is, call the school and leave a message for your child's teacher so he/she knows that your son/daughter made an effort to do the work. Chances are likely that your child's teacher will give them an extra day to get the work done.



*Homework Assignment Trackers:*

Many school now have 'time trackers' or 'binder reminders' for the students to write their homework assignments in. If your child is one of those students that has trouble writing their assignments down, arrangements can be made with the teacher to initial their assignment notebook letting you know that they have all of their assignments written. Many teachers stop class a few minutes early so the students have time to write down the homework assignment. Some teachers have the students flash their homework notebook to them when they are walking out of the classroom, then they know the students all have the assignments.

**Problem:**            **Your child can't do their homework unless you are right there next to them, held captive, even though they don't necessarily need your help**

**Solution:**

*Lack of confidence:*

A few different things might be going on. It may be that your child lacks the confidence to do their homework without you there. Give lots of praise and encouragement to them. Be sure that your son/daughter knows that you know they can do the work. They have a wonderful head on their shoulders and they can do it. After encouraging your child, start moving away from the table slowly

as they get more comfortable with their work. You should be able to gradually move a few feet away, or set them up at the kitchen table while you are working on dinner or dishes. That way you are in close proximity but not a hostage to the table. Gradually keep moving further, but check with them every 10 minutes and then 15 minutes as to how they are doing. This also gives you an opportunity to let your child know how proud you are that they are doing their homework on their own. You may need to set up a reward system if simple praise and encouragement isn't enough here.

### *Your child's job:*

Let your child know that homework is his/her job. As the parent, your job is to check their homework, proofread papers, or help with a difficult problem. A homework assignment should always be on material that has already been covered in school, and hence, somewhat familiar.



You can let your children know that you realize sometimes the homework is difficult for them, but you know they can do it. You will be available if they need help, but you do expect them to try to solve the problem or answer the question on their own first.

Then when they ask for help, ask them what they have already done to solve the problem.

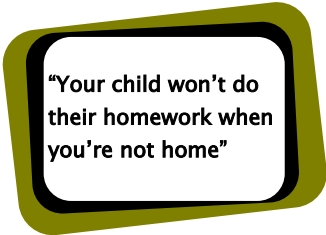
If your child is repeatedly having difficulty with doing their homework, it is a good idea to let their teacher know that your son/daughter is struggling every night. Sometimes the teacher doesn't realize that a particular concept wasn't taught thoroughly as they thought and they may do some re-teaching to be sure the students get it.

### *One-on-one time:*

It may also be that your child just wants some one-on-one time with you. Life is very busy for most of us parents and we often don't take the time to have individual time with each of our children. Sometimes a child doesn't realize it directly, but they feel a need to be near you and they know that homework time is a good time for them to be near you without having to lose face by telling friends that they want to spend some time with their Mom or Dad.

**Problem:**            **Your child won't do their homework when you're not home**

**Solution:**



**"Your child won't do their homework when you're not home"**

State clearly that you expect them to have their homework done by the time you get home from work. Call them at the beginning of 'homework time' so they know you are interested and involved. Be sure that knows what their homework is and they understand how to do it. You can ask them to give you a 'run down' of their assignments over the phone. This is also an

opportunity for you to remind your child to go on to the next subject if they get stuck on something. Call back at the end of homework time to see if they have finished, or check it when you get home. Be supportive and praise your child for a job well done once you have seen it. Give help on any homework that they couldn't do on their own. If they need added incentive, you might give them points for each subject completed and for the amount of time spent on their homework. Remember, back up your words with actions. You can choose to do your homework during daily homework time, or you can choose not to have privileges.

**Problem:**            **Your child comes home upset because they know they did the assignment and their teacher has no record of it**

**Solution:**

When my daughter was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade her school had a librarian that taught them library skills. On their report card the children received a grade in library. My daughter came home with her report card and had a 'C' in library. This shocked me, because she was perfectly independent in the public library, using both the card catalog and computerized card catalogs to look up all kinds of information. So, the two of us went to the school to meet with the librarian. The first remark she made was, "What is the problem, a "C" is a perfectly good grade." So, I explained that I felt it might not be correct since she was so independent in the public library. So then the librarian got out her grade book and showed an F on one test that she had given. Well, my daughter and I both knew that she did not have any tests that she had taken. I knew we had every test at home, because my daughter saved her papers each year until after the report cards came out. So, we went home, dug out the test, and brought it back to the school the next day. She had been the only student in the class to get an 'A' on it. Because my daughter saved her papers, we could prove the grade she actually got and get her grade changed.



When my children were in middle school the school sent home progress reports in the middle of the semester. Several times one of my sons had missing assignments and was due to get a 'D' on his report card. I told him to talk to his teacher the next day to find out what he could do. He was sure he had turned in several of the assignments and he was absent for one of them. The next day he went off to school and as soon as he walked in the door after school I asked him if he had talked to his teacher. He said he was going to, but she was busy, and if he didn't leave the class he'd be late for his next class and get a tardy slip. So my comment was, "Who is taking you to school tomorrow? "I guess you are, Mom." He normally took the bus. I know the teacher has to get to class a few minutes early, so we went off to school a few minutes early and stood outside the classroom door. Now, you know there is nothing worse to a middle school student than having their mom or dad at school standing in the hallway where all their friends can see you. So, we were off to school together the next morning. We waited outside the classroom, and yes, some of his friends saw that I was there. Once the teacher arrived I told her that my son had some questions about the missing assignments. He gave me a look that could kill, and I realized that he didn't feel comfortable asking about the assignments. To him it was a big hurdle to cross, how do you talk to a teacher about such things. So, I modeled it for him, asking about the assignments. I knew the trick was to use 'I messages' or state the facts without making the teacher wrong. That enabled the teacher to be very cooperative and the problem was solved.

"I'm sorry to bother you, I know you are busy getting ready for class, but I'm concerned about the missing assignments listed on the progress report. I know Sam did them. I was right next to him when he worked on them. He told me that he turned them in. Is there any possibility that they got misplaced? Is there anything Sam can do to make them up so that he can improve his grade?" She said, "Yes it



happens sometimes." She suggested that some of the assignments may have gotten in the wrong pile and had my son look through a stack of papers. He actually found two of the assignments in the stack. For the one that he was absent for, she gave him additional time to make it up.

If I had gone into my son's teacher with a different attitude and blurted out, "He did the homework. You lost it. It's your fault." I would have completely shut down the lines of communication. It would have put the teacher on the defensive and my son would have been the loser.

Remember, as a parent talking to a teacher, you don't want to be confrontational. You want the teacher to know that you as a parent appreciate receiving the progress report. It helps you to know how your son/daughter is

doing and if there is anything you can do to help your son/daughter do better. You don't want to put the teacher on the defensive or to loose face with your child. Your child spends a lot of time with that teacher and you want the teacher giving your son/daughter their best. You see, teachers really do want your children to succeed and if they know that you are supporting your child, watching out for them and not allowing them to fall through the cracks, they usually do give them opportunity to make it up.

The next time this happened, again I ended up driving my son to school, but this time I coached him on how to talk with a teacher before arriving at the school. "Remember, when talking with a teacher it helps to have a nice tone of voice. You want to be polite and use a friendly voice with a cooperative attitude so that he/she won't be on the defensive." You can even say, "I'm sorry to bother you, I know you are busy getting ready for class, but my Mom was wondering about my missing assignments. I know I did them. Is there any way that maybe they got misplaced? Is there anything I can do to make them up so that I can improve my grade?" This time he did all the talking and was successful in finding some assignments and had to redo one, but he would get full credit for it. It did happen a third time. Again I told him to talk to his teacher the next day to find out what he could do. This time he came home the next day with what he needed to do. He did find the time to talk to his teacher without me taking him to school again. One of the key elements here was my modeling to him how to talk to his teacher and then allowing him to 'practice' it with me next to him as his 'safety net'. Then he felt comfortable enough to do it on his own. He was empowered, and was able to take care of additional assignments over the years without my intervention.



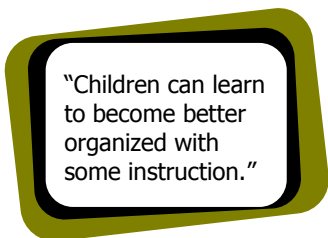
The point of my sharing both of these stories is to teach your children to save their papers, sometimes grades can be accidentally recorded incorrectly, and to teach your children how to talk to their teachers in a productive way.

A parent a number of years ago told me about her son and his missing assignments. She never did follow through with the secrets to solving that problem and her son ended up not passing his class.

## **Problem: Your child does the homework, but doesn't turn it in**

### **Solution:**

Be sure your child's teacher is aware that he/she is actually doing the homework. Their teacher may offer suggestions. Many teachers have homework baskets that students are to automatically place their homework in. This often helps, but many students don't automatically put their assignments in the basket and sometimes they put the assignments into the wrong basket. A very efficient way of handling this problem is to have the students in the class all pass their homework up to the front of the classroom and then the teacher collects it and places it in the basket. When the collection of homework is done in this manner, it jogs all the student's minds to get their homework out and hand it in.



"Children can learn to become better organized with some instruction."

### *Color-coding homework:*

Sometimes a child may not hand in his/her homework because they can't find it in their backpack. It is very frustrating to you as a parent to know that your child did his homework and even had it in their backpack. We parents have trouble understanding how our children can't find their papers. Remember, children aren't all gifted with organizational skills. In fact, some of us adults aren't gifted with organizational skills either. Children can learn to become better organized with some instruction.

An easy way to help your child organize his/her schoolwork is to color code it. Color is a wonderful tool because color helps students to visualize their work. So, what you do is to color code their homework, either with different colored paper for each subject, or a colored stripe on the top of the sheet of paper. Provide your child with colored pencils or markers so they can put a color-coded stripe on the top of their papers.

For some of my students I set up a school binder, divided it up by subject, color coding each subject. I had them cover his books with the same color-coding, and I copied the worksheets in paler colors that coincided with the subject color, so their papers were very easy to sort and keep track of (e. g. For history: book – dark blue, worksheets – light blue; science: book – red, worksheets – pink). They kept all of their assignments in the binder.

**Problem:**            **You constantly struggle to motivate your child to work to the best of their abilities**

**Solution:**

You may think your son/daughter should be self-motivated to do their best on their homework, but try to remember how it was when you were growing up. Did you always do your best? Let's face it; sometimes we still don't always do our best. The important thing is that we do give it our best shot. It is a big help if you as a parent pat your children on the back, letting them know that they are doing a good job. Remember, when you are at work, you always do a better job when you are praised for a good job. It carries over to your next project. It is the same with your child, so praise them for doing their work and for their persistence. Sometimes something more is needed. An incentive is simply something that motivates one to action. If an incentive is what it takes to get your child motivated to do their homework, then by all means try it. Remember though, once your child is working on his/her own, phase out the incentive and keep them motivated by your praise.

**Problem:**            **Your child feels overwhelmed by his/her homework**

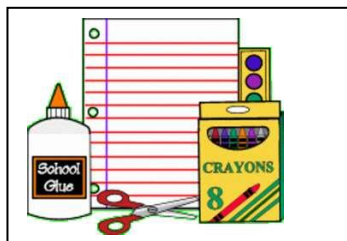
**Solution:**

Admit that sometimes homework was difficult for you when you were in school too. That doesn't mean you didn't still have to do it, but sometimes it can be overwhelming. Help them to break down their assignments and let them know that that is how you get your work done too. If you were to list everything that you did every day and in the morning were to look at that list, you would be overwhelmed. But you do what you need to, a step at a time and get the work and chores done.

**Problem:**   **You are looking forward to going home after a tiring day of work and instead have to run around from store to store getting materials for their school project**

**Solution:**

Be sure they have the reference tools/supplies they need handy. These can all be placed in a box in their study area. There are specific items you should have on hand for different grade levels for homework:



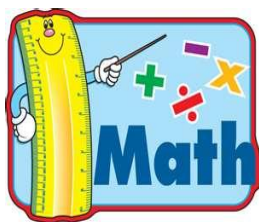
- *For all ages:* a few sheets of white and colored poster board
- *First to sixth grade:* pencils, markers, crayons, pencil sharpeners, glue, tape, a ruler, notebook paper, construction paper, sharpeners, a stapler, folders for reports, and a dictionary.
- *From seventh through high school add:* index cards, assignment book, calculator, thesaurus, encyclopedia, almanac, and white out. Remember, there are inexpensive computer encyclopedias available.
- We believe the most effective and comprehensive guide for writing projects is the [\*Writer's Easy Reference Guide\*](#). \*
- For math homework the most comprehensive and effective reader friendly guide is the [\*BT Easy Math Reference Guide\*](#). \*



**Problem:** You have no idea how to help them because you haven't worked with multiplication of fractions in years

**Solution:**

I'm sure you remember how it was in school. Your teacher explained how to do a particular type of math problem in class and you got it. It seemed so easy to solve it. Then you switched to another subject, and another as the day progressed. You got home, took out your math homework and totally forgot how to do the problem. The same thing happens to your child too. So your child might want to have a study buddy over that knows how to do the assignment. An older sibling might help.

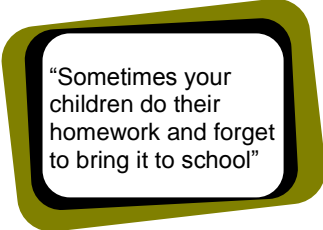


- Here are the elements a good math reference guide should have: Step-by-step how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide (long division), fractions, decimals, percents, examples and strategies for doing word problems, geometric shapes, finding area, perimeter, ratio, averaging, and math terms. It shows you how to do all elementary school math. The only one we found that has all of these elements is the [\*BT Easy Math Reference Guide\*](#). \*

**Problem: Your children need help with term papers, tests, and other projects and you are don't know how to help them**

**Solution:**

At the elementary and middle school levels, ask your son/daughter if their teacher has shown them an example of what the end product looks like. If they haven't seen a specific example, ask your child's teacher if you can see a copy of a previous years report so you know what it is that your child is expected to do. If you can, have your son/daughter with you when you see it so you can look at it together. Sometimes teachers will show some former projects at Back to School Night so the parents will have an idea about upcoming projects their children will be doing. You can request a copy of a former report to have at home to help your child have a model



"Sometimes your children do their homework and forget to bring it to school"

for the project. This way your child has a model to work from. There is no reason for them to re-invent the wheel.

At the high school level, ask your child to ask the teacher if he/she can see a copy of a previous years report so they know what he/she is expected to do. Remember, the more information that a child has regarding a major project, the better their project will turn out. You will most likely want to set up intermediate due dates for yourself if the teacher hasn't so that your child doesn't wait until the night before it is due.

Often your child has not had a great deal of experience managing time with major projects. Because of this, they may need your assistance in helping them plan out when they will do the research, the rough draft/s, and the final copy. You can go over the plan with your child quite easily when using a daily and weekly planning calendar with after school and evening hours on it. A comprehensive easy to use planner for elementary and middle students is in [\*Ten Minutes to Better Study Skills\*](#)

**Problem: Your child doesn't always remember to bring their homework assignments to school**

**Solution:**

Sometimes your children do their homework and forget to bring it to school This can happen because they may have gotten pulled away from their homework to answer the phone, to eat dinner, to go to soccer practice. When they are pulled away, they sometimes forget to put their homework away. They may have forgotten to put it in their binder or put their binder into their backpack. At the elementary and middle school levels, help your child to sort their homework

according to subject and place it in their backpacks when they are done, or check it before they go to bed. Place their backpacks by the door, so they have what they need when they are leaving. At the beginning of the school year you may need to remind them to take their backpacks to school. Once they are back in the routine children rarely forget their backpacks at home.

**Problem:**            **Your child feels stupid**

**Solution:**

All children are gifted in different ways. Some children are academically gifted. Some are athletically gifted. Some are socially gifted. Some children have the gift of gab. Some children can be academically gifted and still feel stupid. A parent's job is to try to bring out the best in their child. Sometimes that is easier said than done.

Praise your children for their hard work and persistence, especially when the assignment is difficult. Emphasize your confidence in them. Often your praise is not enough. They figure you are just Mom and so you have to like them and love them, so they don't always put that great of stock in what you say directly to them. But, if you praise them to your spouse or grandparents or friends (e.g. John completed all of his homework during homework time today! Sally finished all of her homework by herself today!), they start to believe it. When your child hears you brag about them, their self-esteem goes way up!

When they are having difficulty with an assignment, praise them for their persistence. Let them know that you've noticed they got more right on this assignment than when they worked on the same type of problems last week.

It is tempting to just do the problem or answer the question for them, but you need to refrain from that. Your job as a parent is to encourage your son/daughter to work on his or her own. That helps them to develop a 'can do attitude' and higher self-confidence. You empower your son/daughter for success for the rest of their lives.



**Problem:**            **You don't know what is happening at your child's school so you don't know how to help them or where they need help**

**Solution:**

The second or third week of the school year at the elementary grades I made a point of going to the school either before school started or at the end of the day just to introduce myself to my children's teachers. I would tell them a little bit about my son or daughter and let them know that I was looking forward to a great year.

Let's face it we all get busy as the school year progresses. We all lead very busy lives and sometimes it is difficult to get to the school assemblies your children may be participating in or to go to their classroom on the day they will be giving a presentation. I remember finding out after the fact that there was an awards assembly at my son's school. I told him that I wished I had known; I would have gone to it. My son said it was fine. "You know you always make a big deal about it and it wasn't that big of a deal to me." My boys never liked the limelight.



I was still well aware of what they were doing because I attended Back to School Nights and teacher conferences whenever I could. If you can't attend the Back to School Night due to work conflicts, which happened to me at different times, call your child's teacher/s to let them know. Ask them to set aside any handouts or pertinent information for you that you can pick up at the office. You can also ask a classmates parent to pick up the information for you. Many times during Back to School Night your child's teacher will list the types of projects that will be required throughout the year, so you can ask your child if they have started on a particular project during a particular month. This was a very effective way to stay 'in the loop' with my children because I had a clue about some of their upcoming projects.

*Additional Tips:*

1. Be involved and interested in your child's school day. The answers "fine" and "The usual" just don't satisfy. What I did was to change my question to be more specific such as: "What was the favorite thing you



did in school today?” or: What was the funniest thing that happened today?” Now, my children are more likely to respond in greater depth.

2. Take for granted that your children have homework. Ask them to tell you what subjects they have homework in and what they have to do. Set aside a homework time and study area for each child. In the study area, have a set of tools they will need in order to do their homework.
3. Let your child know that homework is his/her job. As the parent, your job is to check their homework. Proofread papers, or help with a difficult problem. A homework assignment should always be on material that has already been covered in school, and hence, somewhat familiar.
4. Foster your child’s learning by playing educational games. On the weekends, have game nights and play learning games. Some of my children’s and my student’s favorites are: The Sentence Zone, Comprehension Zone, and The Math Zone.  
[www.bonnieterrylearning.com/system](http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/system)
5. Praise your children for their hard work and persistence, especially when the assignment is difficult.

**The big result:**  
**An end to the nightly homework wars**

**Higher grades and test scores in school**  
**Self-motivated children**

## **Part II**

Deeper Issues:

Why Some of These Solutions and Tools  
May Not Work For Your Children

## Still Having Difficulties? What Is Going On?

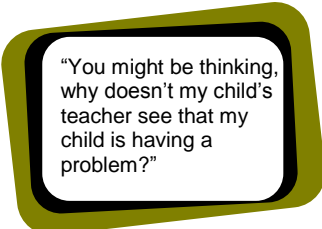
You are still having difficulties there is a reason why and it probably has nothing to do you or with the application of the solutions to homework difficulty that were given in Part I.

I feel that it is my responsibility to give you an idea of the complexity of what you are facing and the opportunities that you have when you are helping your children with their homework.

**Becoming involved with your child and their homework is your single best opportunity to find out how your child is doing as a learner, as a student. It is your opportunity to key in on potential difficulties and learning styles of your child.**

I can't tell you how often a parent has told me what they thought was going on with their child such as he/she can't seem to remember what happened in the story they just read. When that happens, it can be because of either poor visual memory or difficulties with visual tracking. Remembering a list of chores to do is another area of difficulty, this time an area of auditory perception is affected.

Parents are usually right on target in identifying when there is a problem.



"You might be thinking, why doesn't my child's teacher see that my child is having a problem?"

You might be thinking, why doesn't my child's teacher see that my child is having a problem? Remember, your child's teacher is teaching anywhere from five or six children in a small group or 20 to 30 students at a time in a classroom. It is not humanly possible to gain the

information you can by working with your child on a one-to-one basis. Also, your child's teacher is trained as an educator to teach elementary or middle school, or high school. They are not usually trained as a learning disabilities specialist or an educational therapist. They don't always have the expertise to identify the difficulty.

On the other hand, you as a parent have this opportunity to work with and oversee your child on a one-to-one basis.

Just because your child is getting A's and B's doesn't mean that they are not working harder than they need to.

When my son was taking too long to do his homework and schoolwork, I knew something must be going on making it take him longer to do the work. He just wouldn't sit for me to assess what might be happening. To him I was just Mom. His teachers at school didn't think there was any problem because they knew he knew the material. My son was in the gifted program at school and was getting all A's and B's, so they couldn't understand why I was concerned. But, it took him forever to get the work done. I knew there was something going on. But I felt he was working harder than he should in order to get the work done. His teachers were surprised that I actually took him to be assessed for possible vision perception difficulties. They were doubly surprised to find out that he actually had vision perception difficulties that were making him work 3, 4, or 5 times harder than he should have been.

Learning should be easy. It should be challenging. It should be exciting. And you should want to do it.

If your child is still having difficulties and you have applied all of the solutions in Part I, this is what might be going on:

There are nine areas of vision perception that affect learning and nine areas of auditory perception that affect learning and having a difficulty in any one area is enough to throw things off. Having a difficulty in more than one area will throw things off more. And, these difficulties have nothing to do with intelligence. You can be extremely brilliant and have a difficulty. The good news about all of this is that much can be done about these difficulties because *most of these areas of auditory and visual perception are learned skills, so they can be improved.*



### **Here are some possible signs there might be a problem:**

- Your child still takes too long to do their homework, even after following the solutions given in Part I
- Your child skips, repeats, or omits words when reading aloud.
- Your child has difficulty sounding out words.
- Your child has poor reading comprehension
- Your child has difficulty following instructions.
- Your child has difficulty taking notes.
- Your child has sloppy handwriting.
- Your child has trouble finding specific words or items on a page

- Your child reverses letters and/or words e.g. “b’s and d’s”, “was and saw”
- Your child has difficulty with fill-in-the-blank answers such as completing words
- Your child has difficulty identifying and verbalizing concepts
- Your child has trouble producing grammatically correct language.

## **Here are some possible symptoms of learning disabilities and learning problems**

Which of the following applies to your child/children:

- Your child takes too long to do their work
- Your child skips, repeats, or omits words when reading aloud.
- Your child has difficulty sounding out words.
- Your child has poor reading comprehension
- Your child has difficulty following instructions.
- Your child has difficulty taking notes.
- Your child has sloppy handwriting.
- Your child has trouble finding specific words or items on a page.
- Your child reverses letters and/or words e.g. “b’s and d’s”, “was and saw”.
- Your child has difficulty with fill-in-the-blank answers such as completing words.
- Your child has difficulty identifying and verbalizing concepts.
- Your child has trouble producing grammatically correct language.

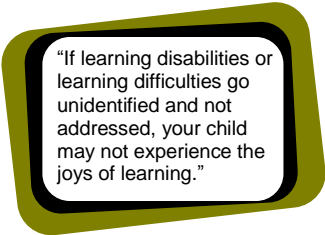
## **Do any of these additional problems also apply to you?**

- Sometimes you and your child engage in daily wars over schoolwork.
- Sometimes your child procrastinates about doing their schoolwork.
- Sometimes you do more of the schoolwork than your child does
- Sometimes your child spends hours and hours doing schoolwork
- Sometimes your child knows you gave them an assignment, but can’t remember what it is
- Sometimes your child doesn’t understand the directions
- Sometimes your child can’t do their schoolwork unless you are right there next to them, held captive, even though they don’t need your help
- Sometimes you struggle to motivate your child to work to the best of their abilities

Most parents will see one or more of these warning signs at one time or another in their children. This is normal. Here’s a good rule of thumb. If you have

checked off one or two of these, I wouldn't be too concerned. However, if you have checked off three or more from either of the groups and if your child struggles occur over a long period of time, you may want to consider the possibility that your child may have a learning difficulty or a learning disability.

If learning disabilities or learning difficulties go unidentified and not addressed, your child may not experience the joys of learning. Instead they may struggle throughout their schooling and ultimately not be able to get into the college of their choice or get the job of their choice. The good news is that with the correct knowledge, a parent will often be able to help them to rectify the difficulty.



"If learning disabilities or learning difficulties go unidentified and not addressed, your child may not experience the joys of learning."

I found that all students, no matter what their age, intellectual abilities, or socio-economic status could learn. I found that they are all gifted in differing areas. I also found that if you give a student the code and the tools to utilize the code, they could all succeed beyond my wildest imaginings.

In my 38 years of teaching I have created ways to identify and address these problems. I have synthesized what I do into my Bonnie Terry Reading Pack, Bonnie Terry Writing Pack, and Bonnie Terry Math Pack. It's the next best thing to having me work live with your children. As a service to the readers of *The Secrets To Stopping the Homework Wars and To Getting Your Children To Do Their Homework Every Time*, Bonnie Terry is offering a 30 minute complimentary consultation on how to help your child and identify the underlying root cause of their learning problems to those that purchase our [Learning Disability Screening Tool](#). Just email us your receipt to schedule your consultation.

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As a parent Bonnie found her own children occasionally struggling in one area or another. Using her teaching and Special Education skills she created programs that changed their learning experience. Now Bonnie shares her 35 plus years of expertise through Bonnie Terry Learning, by empowering teachers and parents with the ability to give their child a 2 – 4 year advantage in just 20 minutes a day!

**Appearances:**

Featured FOX News Education expert and has appeared on CBS Radio. Currently she is the host of her own radio program.

**Award Winning:**

Teacher's Choice, Teacher's Favorite, Special Needs Company of the Year, Best Reading Educational Site, Best Learning Disabilities Site, Best Family Activities Site, Top 50 Special Educators to Follow on Twitter, Businesswoman of the Year

She's a popular national and international speaker.

**Certified:**

Bonnie Terry, M. Ed., BCET, Board Certified Educational Therapist #10167  
Internationally recognized as *America's Leading Learning Specialist*

**Programs, Games and Guides:**

Bonnie Terry has authored over 15 tools to ease the learning process to help create successful students that grow into productive adults.

Bonnie Terry, M. Ed., BCET

<http://bonnieterrylearning.com>

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