



# Parenting Tips

---

## HELPING CHILDREN WORK SMARTER FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Parents and teachers often fall into the trap of telling students to work harder. But many children already work hard and still do not succeed. To help your child develop the skills and strategies to work smarter, not harder, try the following:

- ? ?Set up a conducive environment. Provide necessary materials and eliminate distractions and time-wasters like television and video games.
- ? ?Teach your child to follow directions, to read directions and review the assignment before beginning work, making sure she knows how to do the work.
- ? ?Help her learn to manage time, using timesaving tools like to-do lists, and weekly or monthly planners.
- ? ?Build her confidence. Students who feel they can do well will try even when the work is difficult.
- ? ?Teach her to control her emotions and not to panic if test questions are hard. Remind her to stay calm and concentrate.
- ? ?Show her the progress she's making, pointing out she's doing more complicated work now than previously.
- ? ?Teach her to ask for help when she's struggling with a particular subject, project or assignment. Some students may need the more active involvement of parents or specialized help like tutoring.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County  
423 Griffing Avenue-Suite 100  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Phone: (631) 727-7850 Fax: (631) 727-7130  
[www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk)

---