



Homework in Great First Eight Kindergarten

In Great First Eight kindergarten, we do not assign traditional, daily homework as it is often rote, repetitive, and used punitively. We view homework as a way to connect school and home—both are important learning contexts for children. Home activities are designed to be meaningful, allow for child choice, and deepen school learning.

Family Journal Prompts

We invite families to participate in a weekly Family Journal prompt, which encourages conversation around topics relevant to class projects; as well as children's learning and social and emotional development. They are designed to be manageable in scope and format for busy families. Families can respond to the prompt using a method of their choice: writing (any language), drawing, a video or audio recording submitted via Seesaw, etc.

Reading with Children

We invite families to read to their children whenever possible. We encourage many kinds of reading material; such as, signs in the community, children's books, recipes, and websites and magazine articles appropriate for children. Later in the fall, children have access to Wonder Books which they may read to families. Children can access Wonder Books through Seesaw, or the teacher may loan out paper copies.

Viewing with Children

We invite families to watch and discuss educational material with children as a way of supporting their learning. Research has shown that programs available on PBS stations and at <https://pbskids.org>, for example, support children's learning in math, science, language, literacy, and more. YouTube, and other channels and websites, have many educational videos about our planet and its people.

Family Studios

Great First Eight includes five Family Studios in kindergarten, which are meetings for families, children, and teachers to learn from each other about supporting children's development. In the Family Studios, families share and learn about ways to support math and learning in everyday activities, such as cooking or running errands. Studios are a great way to connect with other families in the school community.

We believe this approach, in lieu of traditional homework, honors families' learning time together. We hope it transforms homework from a task to be checked off into a substantive opportunity for dialogue and connection between children and family members, as well as school and family.