



Homework Help Support during Hybrid / Distance Learning

Remember your purpose: to show love while pursuing friendship

- You aren't the case manager, social worker, or child's teacher – you are their friend.
- There may be ways beyond homework help that the family can use support. Enter in as a learner and look for meaningful ways to advocate and serve.
- This season is stressful and uncertain. Your refugee family may have questions that you don't know the answers to. Ask God for help, and together with the family, make a plan to find answers.

Come alongside and empower parents by helping them answer these or other questions they may have regarding distance learning:

- Who is my child's teacher and how do I reach them if I have a question? Who else will be teaching and/or supporting my child (specialists, EL teachers, social workers)?
- What does my child's schedule look like every day/week?
- When does my child have meetings that they should attend? How do they do this? If they can't attend, what do I do?
- Does my child have the tech and materials they need to do school?
- Can my child receive meals from the school?
- If I have to go to work, what should I do with my child?
- I don't speak or read English – what should I do?

Simple suggestions for finding answers:

- Read emails and mail from the school
- Check district and school websites
- Ask the child to show you their school info and software on their device
- If the child / parent doesn't speak English, call the school with them and ask:
 - Is there someone on staff who can interpret and be a contact person for the parent in the future? (most students should have EL teachers)
 - Should an English speaker be included on correspondence from the school?

Helpful hints for homework help:

- If meeting virtually, discuss how you will see the child's homework. For example, have the child/parent send you pictures/screenshots of their work before you begin so you can see what you need to help with, and possibly print it out so you can stay connected via video chat.
- If parents speak English, ask to speak with them at the end of the time you are meeting so they are made aware of anything the student has to continue to work on or give a general update. Even if parents do not speak English, try to connect with them briefly each session to help build relationship and trust.
- Be flexible whenever possible. Timing may need to change depending on the child's workload. If you are able to do so, please be flexible with your time.
- Determine and complete homework assignments before trying other projects. If a certain subject is too challenging for you, try to work on another subject that you are comfortable with.
- Before you start, encourage the child to have a snack. Take a couple breaks throughout your time together
- Have fun, smile and encourage the student (even the whole family). Your smiles and encourage WILL make an impact.
- Please don't do their homework for them. This may seem obvious, but sometimes when tutoring we see someone is frustrated and want to show them compassion, so we do it for them. Strive to do with and not for these children and their families.

Extra learning activities:

- Have the child read to you. Help the child sound words out if they do not know them. Ask questions about the paragraph, page, or chapter to judge comprehension. Ask opinion questions, "Who is your favorite character?"
- Read to the student. Again, ask questions to judge comprehension.
- Switch off reading by paragraph or page.
- Introduce new vocabulary by subject. For example, talk about words associated with the different seasons, rooms of the house, foods, activities (sports, music, art), clothing, etc. Make flashcards or play a game using the new vocabulary.
- Try some online vocabulary quizzes or spelling games
- Have the student write a letter to a friend or family member. Then teach them how to address an envelope.
- Complete worksheets that focus on a particular writing skill.
- Give them a writing prompt and allow the student to free write.