

# EXPECTATIONS IN PRACTICE

Ultimately, expectations around homework time will play out in day-to-day practice. Establishing expectations for homework time needs to happen in context of the program resources. For example, parents or teachers may want homework to be completed and corrected before children go home. Is that reasonable or desirable in the context of your program staff or other program goals?

Use the following examples to help discussions about homework time in practice.

Practice	Advantages	Challenges
Students must complete all assignments during homework time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework (or more homework) gets done before children go home</li> <li>• Leaves home time unencumbered</li> <li>• Children learn discipline</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students work at different rates</li> <li>• Requires more options for students who finish early</li> <li>• May limit enrichment opportunities</li> <li>• May mean that struggling students don't get a chance to experience other program activities</li> <li>• Can generate behavior issues</li> <li>• Can turn children off afterschool</li> <li>• Can be difficult or feel punitive for children who need more time, or who have extra-heavy workloads</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>
Students must work on homework for a given amount of time. Those who finish early are given other quiet activities or may leave the work area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizes the importance of daily homework completion and consistency.</li> <li>• Children get at least some homework done</li> <li>• Staff can see where children need more help or support</li> <li>• Can help build work habits, focus, and time management skills</li> <li>• Can be peer learning time</li> <li>• Allows for time to offer enrichment activities in addition to homework time.</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to provide activities for children who finish early</li> <li>• Need to combine with groupings and peer supports</li> <li>• Setting appropriate amount of time for mixed ages, grades, and learning styles</li> <li>• Motivation and behavior need attention</li> <li>• Decreases amount of time for enrichment activities</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>

# EXPECTATIONS IN PRACTICE cont.

Practice	Advantages	Challenges
Students have the option of doing some or all of their assignments. Workspace is available for a set amount of time, or at any time during the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodates different work styles</li> <li>• Builds independence and decision-making skills</li> <li>• Allows participation in other activities</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be appropriate for younger students</li> <li>• Should be guided by contracts or agreements</li> <li>• Requires dedicated homework area</li> <li>• Can be chaotic</li> <li>• Children may avoid more difficult assignments</li> <li>• Requires sufficient staff to support children in multiple simultaneous activities</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>
Program aims to ensure that assignments done during homework time are correct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are relieved of checking homework</li> <li>• Can reinforce the importance of careful work</li> <li>• Can provide opportunities for peer tutoring or support if students are involved in the checking</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires additional staff time to check all assignments</li> <li>• Staff may need training in how to help without providing answers; staff may not have the knowledge base or methods</li> <li>• Classroom teachers and families may not be aware of where students are struggling</li> <li>• May decrease time for other activities</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>
<p>Program combines required and optional homework time. May be mandatory for younger children and optional for older ones.</p> <p>May be mandatory for a set time period, then optional for the remainder of the day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizes the importance of working on homework daily and consistently</li> <li>• Allows time for enrichment activities</li> <li>• Provides practice in decision-making and choice</li> <li>• Accommodates varied learning styles</li> <li>• Supports students' sense of independence</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May require dedicated homework space</li> <li>• May be best with agreements or contracts if parents hold different expectations</li> <li>• Requires sufficient staffing</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p>