

Bay Farm Montessori *parent resources*

HOMEWORK

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Homework at Bay Farm:

1. Practice a skill(s) that has been taught in school, especially that needs repetition.
2. Work that integrates more than one skill.
3. Preparation for future topics and study skills.
4. Work that is of particular interest, or extends the student's knowledge.
5. Practice organization and time management.
6. Teaches ownership (ours vs. yours).
7. A mixture of short and long term assignments.

Homework should be:

Meaningful
Respectful
Reasonable

The teacher's message to the student when assigning homework:

"You can do this! If you need help with something like directions, a reminder, or checking in, then ask an adult. If you have no idea what to do, have a question, or you feel like you are lost, then close the book/assignment and bring it back to us."

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Why do things go wrong?

Is it the wrong time of day? Your child works really hard -- they may be hungry, tired, or need to burn energy. They may just need to cuddle or talk to you before starting.

Teacher mistake? Did your child receive the wrong homework? It happens! Have your child pack it up and bring it back. This could have been an assignment meant for someone else or maybe needs more review.

Having trouble getting started? It is common for students to have an idea of what doing homework "looks like," but not sure how to get there. This is especially true for the younger students.

How can you help?

- Talk with your child about times of day, places, and amounts that they want to try. Let them experiment and talk about how it went.
- Make a schedule with your child.
- Use a timer. (Visual timers, kitchen timers)
- Be a role model; use the time to do your own homework.
- Check-in with the child at regular intervals.
- Take regular movement breaks.
- Stay positive and strong!
- Ask the student to reflect on the past week. What did you like? What didn't work?
- Make sure that the child is getting enough sleep, healthy food, relaxation time, limited screen time, etc.
- Use language that establishes ownership. "This is **your** homework." Do not say "Let's get **our** homework done."

Homework should never escalate to a family emergency. When in doubt, have the child bring the homework back.