

Helping with Research Work

Support and encouragement will be your most important contribution when your child is completing school research. This means guiding, advising and talking things through with them. Ensure the final product reflects your child's individual effort and design. If you feel tempted to do the research yourself, ask, "Will this help my child to learn?"

As a parent you can:

- suggest topics for research
- discuss where information may be found and how to get it, e.g. *mailing, emailing, downloading*
- help locate appropriate information by taking your child to the library, museum or university
- provide access to the Internet or reference books either at home or from the local library
- discuss the topic with your child so they can jot down ideas or questions
- discuss whether the information the child has found is relevant and if so, how will it be used
- help your child organise and group information into categories
- ask questions which encourage your child to explore the topic further, e.g. "*Have you looked at the environmental issue from all angles?*"
- encourage your child to use the following procedure when taking notes:
 - short notes: jot down key words and phrases with the reference material open
 - long notes: close the reference material and use the short notes to make sentences
- discuss the best way to present the research work, e.g. *poster, tape recording, model, PowerPoint presentation*
- assist with technical work such as photography or construction.

