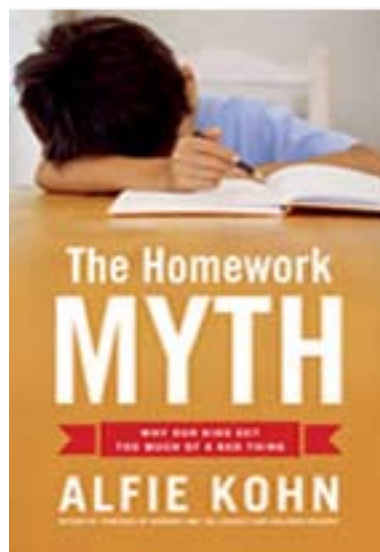


HOMework HEADACHE RELIEF



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Attempting to boost their child's future career success many parents demand that teachers assign homework – and lots of it – thinking it's a vital key.

Teachers too can profess that homework practice makes perfect and impinge upon family life with regular assigned homework.

According to Alfie Kohn's recent publication, *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*, they're both wrong!

Despite BC's largest urban school district stating that *homework is the vital link...* and that *...regular positive attention each night to the correctness, creativity, progress or neatness of the work will enhance the child's outlook to learning away from school*, Kohn argues that the evidence is contrary and homework provides no academic benefits for younger students in elementary school.

Kohn explains that dogmatic approaches to homework hinder learning and also raise serious questions about whether homework is really necessary for older students. He even challenges the belief that homework promotes independence and good work habits.

While I don't think that we should jump on the ANTI-HOMEWORK bandwagon, it is critical that we consider what promotes learning and not fall into the assumption trap – that we received homework as kids and therefore our children should too.

Kohn's book shakes up traditional ideas about the nature of homework and provides the foundation for meaningful dialogue between parents and teachers about what's best for kids. Children benefit when we drop our preconceived notions of schooling and try fresh and responsive approaches that are based on best practice and kids' needs.



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For more information visit <http://www.alfiekohn.org/teaching/edweek/homework.htm>