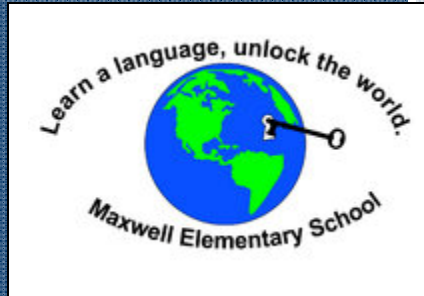


# Helpful Spanish Homework Hints



Maxwell began the Spanish Immersion Program in 1990.

## Homework in Spanish? ¡Sí se puede! Yes, You Can!

If your family has chosen English language homework in Math and Science, consider switching to Spanish homework!

Many parents do not speak Spanish, but all can help their children learn to work independently and confidently in both English **and** Spanish.

Regardless of the language, the purpose of homework is to reinforce and extend learning that has begun in the classroom. Parents can help a child to develop good study habits by setting aside some time every day for independent reading, doing homework assignments, and studying. The most important factor is the encouragement and the positive support a parent is able to give a child. Parents influence the attitude of their child to homework.

**Here are some practical suggestions for parents:**

- Discuss with the teacher and the child the reason for homework. Ask what to expect and how much.
- Be informed about your child's assignments and tests.
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted place to work, away from distractions.
- Treat homework as the child's responsibility, with yourself as advisor or consultant.
- Set a regular period of homework time and if necessary, help the child organize his or her schedule.
- Follow up with your child. Ask how particular assignments or tests went.
- Develop with the child a system for remembering assignments and test dates so you can both know what is in the future.

*Taken from "French Immersion in Manitoba: A Handbook for School Leaders"*

[http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/fr\\_imm\\_handbook/fr-imm-mb\\_07.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/fr_imm_handbook/fr-imm-mb_07.pdf)

## Why is the Homework in Spanish?

- Homework in Spanish gives the children a chance to use their knowledge of Spanish outside of the school setting. Otherwise, they go 17 hours without hearing, speaking, reading or writing in Spanish. Spanish homework also reinforces critical communication skills.
- The more grounded a child's instruction is in the target language, the better chance she has of performing at a superior level in both English language arts and other content areas.
- Immersion students are likely to outperform monolingual students on standardized measurements of English language competency.
- Research indicates that immersion students are also successfully transferring content area knowledge from the target language to their native language.

## Homework Resources to get your Spanish started:

- Call a friend (use that directory!)
- Ask your child's teacher for an English copy of the homework (for parents only)
- Purchase a Spanish Dictionary
- Use on-line translation sites ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com))
- Ask for help the next day
- Use the Lexington Public Library's homework hotline for a Spanish-speaking tutor (<http://www.lexpublib.org/homework/>)

*"Now that I have a better understanding of the benefits of continuing their Spanish at home, I have requested that my twins get their homework in Spanish."*

*--Leigh Ann Isaac*

*New Maxwell Parent*



Olivia Isaac on her first day of Kindergarten at Maxwell