Fun Ways to Turn Homework into a Game

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If there is one thing that parents and kids struggle with on a pretty regular basis, it's homework. Very few children actually like doing it, and who could blame them when video games and playing outside are both so much more fun? If your kids are particularly stubborn or have anxieties around their school performance, it can be like pulling teeth to get them to buckle down and learn what they need to keep up with their peers.

When homework feels more like playing a game, however, it can help soothe the homework blues and inspire your children to make the kind of creative learning connections they can only make through play. Whether encouraging them to top their own best score, race to learn a set of information, or seek out worthwhile rewards through hard work, games can make learning feel more like a fun activity than a boring chore.

Raise the Stakes of Learning with Prizes

You understandably may not want to reward every little task with a prize, but if you set some learning goals and incorporate prizes in for reaching certain milestones, this can inspire your child to learn. Rewards can range from small prizes, such as a yummy [snack](#) for getting 10 math problems in a row correct, to large prizes, such as dinner at a favorite restaurant when they ace that test.

You could also give children points for completing a certain number of tasks and then allow them to "purchase" rewards from a chosen list negotiated in advance. You can even just give out badges of honor for certain achievements to inspire confidence and show you're proud!

Use Online Resources for Learning Games

There are a ton of resources out there about learning games for just about any subject. As an example, the National Association for the Education of Young Children suggests using dot cards and finger games to help young children with [math](#). For older kids, Edutopia mentions numerous [resources](#) for learning all sorts of things, such as a Whack-a-Bone game that teaches the bones and parts of the body. By turning to the web for fun-based learning instead of surfing, you can really put your kid's interest in electronics to good use.

Use Flashcard and Test Game Generators

Electronic-oriented educational resources abound in the form of apps to make learning games out of any type of information; they're essentially online flashcards and multiple-choice question generators that can be turned into different types of individual and group games. Apps like these work best if you use a central device to control the game and your child uses a phone or tablet to enter their responses.

Don't Underestimate Learning Apps

Much like online resources for game-based learning, there are many apps for phones or tablets designed to help your child learn important concepts in a way that feels like a video game. For instance, [The Sandbox](#) is a great app for teaching various STEM-based concepts, [Door24](#) is an excellent resource for math learning, and [Grading Game](#) helps teach students how to better check their own writing for spelling and grammar errors. If your youngster loves games but not homework (yet!), there's definitely an app for that!

Incorporate Exercise Into Learning

If your youngster's issue is that it's too challenging to sit still long enough to learn, consider doing something active while he or she is learning. Maybe put math problems on one side of the room and solutions on the other and have your child run back and forth to match the two or do jumping jacks for each letter of a spelling word.

You can also help them drill through flashcards while you both do something active together, like walking in a park or around your neighborhood. Whatever it is, studies indicate that [physical movement](#) can help many people learn, so it's not a bad idea to add it to the mix.

Please note that you should join your kids in getting physical. Learning while practicing healthy habits is always a win-win situation, but you have to make sure you are dressed for your physical activities. For example, [new moms](#) might want to wear postpartum leggings to stay comfy while being active.

No matter which route you take to bring some game-based learning into your child's life, it's sure to take away some of the stress of getting them to do their homework. Smart technology with a matching phone plan can facilitate all sorts of important play-based learning opportunities. So with the right technology in hand, why not game-ify your child's next study session?