

***The student does not have a regular routine (fixed time, location, etc.) for studying and completing homework.**

- Have the student and family complete a homework schedule each week with adequate time set aside daily for homework.
- Student identifies both a place at home where the student can do homework without distractions and a set time for doing homework.
- If the home environment is not conducive for completing homework, encourage the student to find another location (e.g., local branch of the public library, community center) suitable for homework.
- Encourage the student to use study halls or other in-school time to get a head start on homework. At Shuksan, ask teachers about homework clubs, Learning Labs and Friday School.

*** The student lacks an efficient strategy for completing homework assignments.***

- Students need training and support to create a plan for completing homework. Show them how to preview their afterschool assignments, order those assignments so that they do the most difficult first (when their energy level is highest), break larger assignments into smaller sub-tasks, and estimate how much time each assignment is likely to require.
- Suggest to students that they take short breaks between homework assignments (e.g., spending 10 minutes watching television) to refresh and reenergize.
- Students should remove unnecessary 'time-wasters' from the homework setting (e.g., Internet messaging, television, radio, cell phones).
- Parents serve as a 'homework coach' in this scenario by: meeting with the student each night to look over assignments, set up a plan for completing the homework, monitoring the student's actual time spent doing homework, and reviewing finished work to verify its completeness and quality.

*** The student completes homework but fails to turn it in at school.**

- Does the student have completed homework assignments in his or her backpack before leaving for school? Check.
- Set up a homework chart for the student. Award the student a point for each day that he or she turns in homework. Allow the student to redeem collected points for rewards or privileges.
- Ask teachers for progress reports.
- Ask a school staff member to be a 'homework check-in' person for your student. At the beginning of the day, students go to the staff member in the school's main office and surrender their completed homework assignments. The staff member immediately puts students' homework in the appropriate teachers' mailboxes.
- Encourage students to complete their homework in study halls or in an afterschool 'homework club'. Appoint a staff member to collect students' completed homework before they leave for the day and to put finished homework into the appropriate teachers' mailboxes.

***The student fears taking chances or trying new things. This student will say “I don’t know” in class rather than risk a wrong answer.**

How can you help your risk-averse child? Here are some tips from [Beyond Smart: Boosting Your Child’s Social, Emotional and Academic Potential](#)

- Emphasize effort as much as outcome. Praise your child for trying.
- Take breaks. None of us is at our best when pushed beyond our limits.
- End on positive notes. Divide complex tasks into smaller, more doable segments and celebrate the completion of each.
- Create a healthy balance between challenging projects and tasks and easy ones. Review the day with your child.
- Spend time talking about success. Catch your child doing things “right.” The more a child hears and receives praise for positive efforts, the more that child will internalize that message.
- Embrace failure and help your child not be afraid of it. We all had to fall many times before we learned to walk.