

Organizing Study Space

Where students study and do homework is almost as important as how they study, especially for students who are easily distracted. A good study space should include these elements:

- **A good light**
- **A comfortable yet supporting chair**
- **A clear work space free of visual distractions (such as posters or toys) and auditory distractions (such as TV, radio, conversations, or the sound of other children playing)**
- **A consistent place where the student always studies and, if possible, uses only for studying**
- **All necessary tools and supplies, such as a pencil sharpener, ruler, paper, calculator, and dictionary**

Depending on how long they are working, students should plan to take appropriate breaks to avoid becoming fatigued. They should complete one assignment at a time; all other work should be removed from the work surface so they do not become distracted or feel overwhelmed by the other assignments they have yet to complete.

In addition, students should identify one place in the home where they can assemble everything they will need for the next day of school. This “arrival and departing station” can be a corner on the floor near the front door, a book shelf in their room, or perhaps a shelf near the kitchen door. When they are finished with homework, that is a good time to assemble their work, books, and any special items they might need for the next day (e.g., gym clothes, show-and-tell item) and place them in this spot. Everything should be ready so the students walk out the door on time.