

HOMWORK HELPER ALERT:

“Connections Matter”



WEAC member Geri Stenstrup teaches second grade at Royal Oaks Elementary School in Sun Prairie.

Studies show that children who are supported by their families with homework are likely to perform significantly better than those who are not supported.

Geri Stenstrup, second-grade teacher and Sun Prairie Education Association member, has seen it firsthand. A veteran teacher with more than 30 years in the classroom, Stenstrup engages parents early in the school year.

“We have a parent night every fall to lay out the year,” says Stenstrup. “Parents not only see what their children will be doing all year but also participate in learning activities. For instance, the way we teach math now is very different than parents might remember. Our goal is to prepare parents so that there are no surprises. If they know what’s happening, they’re better able to help their children stay on track. For many parents, it’s an eye-opening experience.”

Stenstrup says children of parents who attend consistently do better in school than children whose parents don’t participate in the event. And while not every teacher is able to offer this kind of program, you can certainly speak with your child’s teacher to learn more about the curriculum and learning tips.

3 TIPS TO BECOME MORE ENGAGED IN LEARNING:

- 1** Turn an assignment into real-life. For example, if your children are working on calculations take them grocery shopping. Have them practice rounding up on your next shopping trip.
- 2** No more memorizing. Use word chunks to help children see word patterns. For instance, “think.” Kids would spell th... then ...ink. For longer words such as “beautiful,” encourage them to say the words in syllables and spell it that way. Beau...ti...ful.
- 3** Look for resources that help you help your children. Ask your teacher, local PTA and school librarian for favorite online references and books. Some YouTube videos provide short “how-to” videos to walk you through more complex strategies and other types of homework.

How do you help your children with homework? We’d love to hear at [Facebook.com/myweac](https://www.facebook.com/myweac).