

## The Homework Myth Why Our Kids Get Too Much Of A Bad Thing Alfie Kohn

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**The Homework Myth** John Wiley & Sons

Does assigning fifty math problems accomplish any more than assigning five? Is memorizing word lists the best way to increase vocabulary—especially when it takes away from reading time? And what is the real purpose behind those devilish dioramas? The time our children spend doing homework has skyrocketed in recent years. Parents spend countless hours cajoling their kids to complete such assignments—often without considering whether or not they serve any worthwhile purpose. Even many teachers are in the dark: Only one of the hundreds the authors interviewed and surveyed had ever taken a course specifically on homework during training. The truth, according to Sara Bennett and Nancy Kalish, is that there is almost no evidence that homework helps elementary school students achieve academic success and little evidence that it helps older students. Yet the nightly burden is taking a serious toll on America’s families. It robs children of the sleep, play, and exercise time they need for proper physical, emotional, and neurological development. And it is a hidden cause of the childhood obesity epidemic, creating a nation of “homework potatoes.” In *The Case Against Homework*, Bennett and Kalish draw on academic research, interviews with educators, parents, and kids, and their own experience as parents and successful homework reformers to offer detailed advice to frustrated parents. You’ll find out which assignments advance learning and which are time-wasters, how to set priorities when your child comes home with an overstuffed backpack, how to talk and write to teachers and school administrators in persuasive, nonconfrontational ways, and how to rally other parents to help restore balance in your children’s lives. Empowering, practical, and rigorously researched, *The Case Against Homework* shows how too much work is having a negative effect on our children’s achievement and development and gives us the tools and tactics we need to advocate for change. Also available as an eBook

***The Myth of the Spoiled Child*** Heinemann Educational Books

In this updated edition, Cathy Vatterott examines the role homework has played in the culture of schooling over the years; how such factors as family life, the media, and “homework gap” issues based on shifting demographics have affected the homework controversy; and what recent research as well as common sense tell us about the effects of homework on student learning. She also explores how the current homework debate has been reshaped by forces including the Common Core, a pervasive media and technology presence, the mass hysteria of “achievement culture,” and the increasing shift to standards-based and formative assessment. The best way to address the homework controversy is not to eliminate homework. Instead, the author urges educators to replace the old paradigm (characterized by long-standing cultural beliefs, moralistic views, and behaviorist philosophy) with a new paradigm based on the following elements: Designing high-quality homework tasks; Differentiating homework tasks; Deemphasizing grading of homework; Improving homework completion; and Implementing homework support programs. Numerous examples from teachers and schools illustrate the new paradigm in action, and readers will find useful new tools to start them on their own journey. The end product is homework that works—for all students, at all levels.

Hachette UK

Using US schools as a reference point, this book provides a description of schooling as a global institution. The authors draw on a four-year investigation conducted in 47 countries that examined many aspects of K-12 schooling. They discuss how world trends and the forces behind them will work to shape the directions education may take.

**Closing the Book on Homework** Boynton/Cook

How can we fix America's floundering public schools? Conventional wisdom says that schools and teachers need a lot more money, that poor and immigrant children can't do as well as most American kids, that high-stakes tests just produce teaching to the test, and that vouchers do little to help students while undermining our democracy. Jay P. Greene has gathered the evidence to show that much of what people believe about education policy is little more than a series of myths.

***Overloaded and Underprepared*** HarperCollins

Teaching with Your Mouth Shut is not intended as a manual for teachers; it aims to provoke reflection on the many ways teaching can be organized.

No Contest Beacon Press

Death and taxes come later; what seems inevitable for children is the idea that, after spending the day at school, they must then complete more academic assignments at home. The predictable results: stress and conflict, frustration and exhaustion. Parents respond by reassuring themselves that at

least the benefits outweigh the costs. But what if they don't? In *The Homework Myth*, nationally known educator and parenting expert Alfie Kohn systematically examines the usual defenses of homework—that it promotes higher achievement, “reinforces” learning, and teaches study skills and responsibility. None of these assumptions, he shows, actually passes the test of research, logic, or experience. So why do we continue to administer this modern cod liver oil -- or even demand a larger dose? Kohn's incisive analysis reveals how a mistrust of children, a set of misconceptions about learning, and a misguided focus on competitiveness have all left our kids with less free time and our families with more conflict. Pointing to parents who have fought back -- and schools that have proved educational excellence is possible without homework -- Kohn shows how we can rethink what happens during and after school in order to rescue our families and our children's love of learning.

**I Wish for Change: Unleashing the Power of Kids to Make a Difference** John Catt Educational

Praise for *Overloaded and Underprepared* “ Parents, teachers, and administrators are all concerned that America ’ s kids are stressed out, checked out, or both—but many have no idea where to begin when it comes to solving the problem. That ’ s why the work of *Challenge Success* is so urgent. It has created a model for creating change in our schools that is based on research and solid foundational principles like communication, creativity, and compassion. If your community wants to build better schools and a brighter future, this book is the place to start. ” —Daniel H. Pink, author of *Drive* and *A Whole New Mind* “ *Challenge Success* synthesizes the research on effective school practices and offers concrete tools and strategies that educators and parents can use immediately to make a difference in their communities. By focusing on the day-to-day necessities of a healthy schedule; an engaging, personalized, and rigorous curriculum; and a caring climate, this book is an invaluable resource for school leaders, teachers, parents, and students to help them design learning communities where every student feels a sense of belonging, purpose, and motivation to learn the skills necessary to succeed now and in the future. ” —Linda Darling-Hammond, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education, Stanford University “ Finally, a book about education and student well-being that is both research-based and eminently readable. With all the worry about student stress and academic engagement, Pope, Brown and Miles gently remind us that there is much we already know about how to create better schools and healthier kids. Citing evidence-based ‘ best practices ’ gleaned from years of work with schools across the country, they show us what is not working, but more importantly, what we need to do to fix things. Filled with practical suggestions and exercises that can be implemented easily, as well as advice on how to approach long-term change, *Overloaded and Underprepared* is a clear and compelling roadmap for teachers, school administrators and parents who believe that we owe our children a better education. ” —Madeline Levine, co-founder *Challenge Success*; author of *The Price of Privilege* and *Teach Your Children Well* “ This new book from the leaders behind *Challenge Success* provides a thorough and balanced exploration of the structural challenges facing students, parents, educators, and administrators in our primary and secondary schools today. The authors ’ unique approach of sharing proven strategies that enable students to thrive, while recognizing that the most effective solutions are tailored on a school-by-school basis, makes for a valuable handbook for anyone seeking to better understand the many complex dimensions at work in a successful learning environment. ” —John J. DeGioia, President of Georgetown University

**The Math Myth** ASCD

Criticizes the system of motivating through reward, offering arguments for motivating people by working with them instead of doing things to them

**Feel-Bad Education** Da Capo Lifelong Books

A prominent and esteemed critic challenges widely held beliefs about children and parenting, revealing that underlying each myth is a deeply conservative ideology that is, ironically, often adopted by liberal parents. Somehow a set of deeply conservative assumptions about children—what they ’ re like and how they should be raised—has congealed into the conventional wisdom in our society. Parents are accused of being both permissive and overprotective, unwilling to set limits and afraid to let their kids fail. Alfie Kohn systematically debunks these beliefs, not only challenging erroneous factual claims but also exposing the troubling ideology that underlies them. Complaints about pushover parents and coddled kids are hardly new, he shows, and there is no evidence that either phenomenon is especially widespread today—let alone more common than in previous generations. Moreover, new research reveals that helicopter parenting is quite rare and, surprisingly, may do more good than harm when it does occur. The major threat to healthy child development, Kohn argues, is parenting that is too controlling rather than too indulgent. With the same lively, contrarian style that marked his influential books about rewards, competition, and education, Kohn relies on a vast collection of social science data, as well as on logic and humor, to challenge assertions that appear with numbing regularity in the popular press and are often accepted uncritically, even by people who are politically liberal. These include claims that young people • suffer from inflated self-esteem • are entitled and narcissistic • receive trophies, praise, and A ’ s too easily • are in need of more self-discipline and “ grit ” Kohn ’ s invitation to reexamine these and other assumptions is particularly timely; his book has the potential to change our culture ’ s conversation about kids and the people who raise them.

**Unconditional Parenting** Stanford University Press

Argues that homework does not provide academic benefits for younger students and that the notion of homework is the result of a set of misconceptions about learning, a mistrust of children, and a misguided focus on competitiveness.

**Garage Logic** Simon and Schuster

**The Homework Myth**Da Capo Lifelong Books

**The Homework Myth** Basic Books

From an elementary school principal and popular YouTube personality, inspiration and humor for educators to tackle the challenges they face day-in and day-out Gerry Brooks is an elementary school principal turned YouTube celebrity who entertains K-12 teachers, administrators, and parents across the country. He tells jokes with the kind of mocking humor that gets a laugh, yet can be safely shared in school. After all, even great schools have bad days -- when lesson plans fall through, disgruntled parents complain, kids throw temper tantrums because they have to use the same spoon for their applesauce and mashed potatoes, and of course, dealing with...The Horror! The Horror!...dreaded assessments. Ranging from practical topics like social media use in the classroom and parent-teacher conferences to more lighthearted sections such as "Pickup and Dropoff: An Exercise in Humanity" and "School Supplies: Yes, We Really Need All That Stuff," Go See the Principal offers comic relief, inspiration, and advice to those who need it the most.

***The Myth of the Spoiled Child*** Da Capo Lifelong Books

Mind-opening writing on what kids need from school, from one of education ’ s most outspoken voices Almost no writer on schools asks us to question our fundamental assumptions about education and motivation as boldly as Alfie Kohn. The Washington Post says that “ teachers

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and parents who encounter Kohn and his thoughts come away transfixed, ready to change their schools. ” And Time magazine has called him “ perhaps the country ’ s most outspoken critic of education ’ s fixation on grades [and] test scores. ” Here is challenging and entertaining writing on where we should go in American education, in Alfie Kohn ’ s unmistakable voice. He argues in the title essay with those who think that high standards mean joylessness in the classroom. He reflects thoughtfully on the question “ Why Self-Discipline Is Overrated. ” And in an essay for the New York Times, which generated enormous response, he warns against the dangers of both punishing and praising children for what they do instead of parenting “ unconditionally. ” Whether he ’ s talking about school policy or the psychology of motivation, Kohn gives us wonderfully provocative—and utterly serious—food for thought. This new book will be greeted with enthusiasm by his many readers, and by teachers and parents seeking a refreshing perspective on today ’ s debates about kids and schools.

Visible Learning SAGE Publications

Arguing against the "tougher standards" rhetoric that marks the current education debate, the author of No Contest and Punished by Rewards writes that such tactics squeeze the pleasure out of learning. Reprint.

Education Myths ASCD

Since 1993, “ Garage Logic ® ” listeners have been fleshing out the mythical town, populating it with characters and filling in the nooks and crannies that have made it such a special place. Now, in Garage Logic ®: A Companion Guide to Life in the Radio Town, the streets come alive. There really is a fabulous Spoon Lake, a downtown, a Knack Hardware and Lounge, and a golf course called Creature Path. Listeners, who had such a strong hand in creating the town, now can read the stories and listen to residents of Garage Logic ® tell in their own words why the seat of Gumption County is so blessed by common sense and good times in “ The Opener, ” “ Last Drop Days, ” the Fourth of July fireworks, and a shocking discovery about garage wood that stunned the whole town.

The Brown Center Report on American Education Flatiron Books

Parenting and education expert Alfie Kohn tackles the misconception that overparenting and overindulgence has produced a modern generation of entitled children incapable of making their way in the world.

Free to Learn Boynton/Cook

This unique and ground-breaking book is the result of 15 years research and synthesises over 800 meta-analyses on the influences on achievement in school-aged students. It builds a story about the power of teachers, feedback, and a model of learning and understanding. The research involves many millions of students and represents the largest ever evidence based research into what actually works in schools to improve learning. Areas covered include the influence of the student, home, school, curricula, teacher, and teaching strategies. A model of teaching and learning is developed based on the notion of visible teaching and visible learning. A major message is that what works best for students is similar to what works best for teachers — an attention to setting challenging learning intentions, being clear about what success means, and an attention to learning strategies for developing conceptual understanding about what teachers and students know and understand. Although the current evidence based fad has turned into a debate about test scores, this book is about using evidence to build and defend a model of teaching and learning. A major contribution is a fascinating benchmark/dashboard for comparing many innovations in teaching and schools.

The Case Against Standardized Testing Penguin

The Boy's Body Book is here to help with expert advice, common sense tips, fast facts, and answers to all questions a boy might have about growing up.

What Does It Mean to Be Well Educated? Mariner Books

Kohn's central message is that standardized tests are "not a force of nature but a force of politics and political decisions can be questioned, challenged, and ultimately reversed."

EdPsych Modules Brookings Institution Press

NO. MORE. HOMEWORK. That ’ s what sixth grader Sam Warren tells his teacher while standing on top of his desk. He's fed up with doing endless tasks from the time he gets home to the time he goes to sleep. Suspended for his protest, Sam decides to fight back. He recruits his elderly neighbor/retired attorney Mr. Kalman to help him file a class action lawsuit on behalf of all students in Los Angeles. Their argument? Homework is unconstitutional. With a ragtag team—aspiring masterchef Alistair, numbers gal Catalina, sports whiz Jaesang, rebel big sister Sadie and her tech-savvy boyfriend Sean—Sam takes his case to federal court. He learns about the justice system, kids ’ rights, and constitutional law. And he learns that no matter how many times you get knocked down, there's always an appeal...until the nine justices have the last say. Will Sam's quest end in an epic fail, or will he be the hero who saves childhood for all time?