**Too Much Homework? No way!**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (Achieve3000, February 8, 2006).

If kids feel that they have too much homework, they'll have a tough time getting adults to support their claim. In a recent poll, most parents and teachers said they believe that homework loads are appropriate—despite what [querulous](http://portal.achieve3000.com/kb/lesson/?lid=2042&step=11&c=1&asn=1) kids say. The survey involved 1,085 parents and 810 teachers of children in kindergarten through 12th grade. Respondents answered questions about students' homework assignments and habits.

"Kids aren't being as well educated as I was," said respondent Dwight Daugherty, who complained that his two sons barely have any homework in high school. Stephen Orlando, on the other hand, says that his 11th grade daughter works on assignments for 4 hours every night—an excessive amount of time, Orlando believes. At 10:00 p.m., he and his wife tell their daughter to stop working, regardless of how much work she has completed. If the survey results are accurate, Orlando's daughter has an exceptional amount of homework.

On average, parents in the survey estimated that their children spend 90 minutes a night on homework. In general, parents felt that their kids were spending the right amount of time doing homework, and, of those who did not agree, most felt that homework assignments were too light rather than too demanding. Parents may even be overestimating the amount of homework that their kids have—in a separate poll, most students ages 9, 11, and 13 said that they spend less than an hour a night on homework, while others said that their teachers do not assign homework at all. Experts confirm that most children in the U.S. do not have an excessive amount of homework to do. In fact, among industrialized nations, the U.S. is about average in terms of homework, which means that students in some nations have more, and students in some nations have less.

The survey also asked about parental involvement in homework. Sixty-four percent of parents said that they easily find time to help their kids, and fifty-seven percent said that they spend the right amount of time helping out. Even though some high school students study challenging subjects like chemistry and algebra, seventy percent of parents said that the homework they see is not too difficult for them to understand. Still, teachers in the survey said that parents need to supervise their children's homework more often—nearly ninety percent of them said that parents don't spend enough time helping their kids.

Many parents say that they try to help their kids, but lack of time and patience gets in the way. Elaine Carter, who has five school-aged children, requires her family to read each morning, but she says that she has trouble finding as much time as she would like to devote to helping her children with homework. Charmayne Roberts, who got good grades in algebra when she was in school, tries to help her daughter with math, but she gets frustrated when her daughter does not understand her explanations.

"They say [that as you get older], you acquire more patience," Roberts said. "But that hasn't happened to me."

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*