Top Ten Parenting Tips for Helping Your Child with Homework & School

My recent podcasts highlighting my top ten tips for healthy parenting were so well received, both on the air and in print form from my website, that I have now developed my top ten tips for helping your child with homework and with school.

School has come a long way from the one-room schoolhouses on the prairie in the wild west of the late 1800’s. Nowadays, school is as much a concept and a thought process as it is a place. From daycare to preschool to primary, elementary, middle, and high school grades, the varieties of experience are enormous.

With current shelter-in-place provisions to contain the pandemic, school has regressed, somewhat, to the one-room schoolhouse days, except now with many more resources to help school be a unique experience for our children.

As parents, in a variety of circumstances, how do we navigate these unique, stressful waters of modified schooling for our kids? What’s most important for you in being your child’s “substitute teacher?” Here are my top ten tips to help you be there for your child, whether it’s just helping with homework or being full-time, home school teacher to them.

1. Always start where your child is. Help him get past the barriers.
2. Allow at least 5-10 minutes of transition both at the beginning and end of a homework, and home schooling time.
3. Structure, Routine, and Muscle Memory --- Tools for Academic and Life Success.
4. Earn respect with active listening, healthy boundaries, and direction.
5. Relationship --- The Fourth “R” of schooling.
6. Building character and developing a growth rhythm set the tone.
7. Context for Learning --- What else is going on? Why now?
8. Start with your child’s strengths and help them use what works to impact and improve their weaknesses.
9. Re-frame failures to be also blessings in disguise.
10. Draw on and draw in other resources in your child’s schooling.

These ten tips will help you stay the course, give your child a memorable, impactful school experience, and continue building healthy relationships. Each tip sets the tone for teachable moments.