

How to Create an Effective Homework Environment

*Clover Street School
Windsor, Connecticut*

Students at Clover Street School gave homework a brand new look. At an evening workshop called “Creating an Effective Homework Environment,” parents learned helpful homework techniques, and students in grades two through five designed their own homework kits. Students used stickers and art supplies to decorate shoeboxes that would serve as their kits. The children filled their kits with essential homework supplies that had been donated by students at a local private high school. While the students created their homework kits, their parents listened to a presentation by the Clover Street Family Resource Center on tips to enable children to thoroughly and correctly complete their homework. At the end of the night, the children took their kits home to use throughout the year.

The Family Resource Center (FRC) obtained the school supplies through a partnership with a local private high school. As a community service project, the high school students participated in a school supplies drive to benefit the students at Clover Street School. The FRC provided a list of necessary materials, and the teenagers donated school supplies during the two months preceding the workshop.

Teachers, administrators, and the PTA helped advertise the project. All students and parents received event fliers in the children’s weekly take-home folders. School staff learned about the program via e-mail. The event also appeared on the school calendar. Participants were asked to register for the workshop in advance to ensure that there would be enough supplies for all interested families.

“This was a project that benefited all

involved. It was a win-win!” emphasized the coordinator of the high school’s community service effort. By providing Clover Street School with necessary homework supplies, the project made sure that all families had sufficient materials at home. The workshop supported parents to create a positive atmosphere where their children would be better able to complete their homework. Students were excited about receiving the new materials. One parent reported, “My child placed her kit carefully away the night we returned and pulled it out first thing in the morning to write a note of thanks using all the new materials.”

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