

how to help your kids study: 5 easy ways

1. Re-write notes. Start by gathering all of the papers with notes on them. Read over them to get a sense of what was discussed, and highlight or circle the main points. Then re-write the notes on a fresh sheet of paper in a more organized way. It will help!

2. Make a concept poster. A concept poster is just that--a poster all about a certain topic. Start again by gathering all of the papers and handouts on the topic. Write the main concept in the middle of the poster, and then add information about it all around, much like a brainstorm web but more organized and specific. Once the poster is complete, use Post-it notes to cover areas with details. Then test your knowledge on a topic by trying to remember the information that is covered. It's a great way to practice and learn!

3. Re-teach. Reading over notes and re-teaching to a parent or sibling is a super way of showing understanding of a concept. Have students review notes first and then take the mic. Write key vocabulary words or concepts on Post-it notes, stick them to the refrigerator or wall, and have the student explain them to you. You may be surprised at what you learn!

4. Make flashcards--and use them!

It's one thing to make flashcards, but it's a whole other thing to use them.

Make flashcards by cutting a piece of paper into eight small sections. You can do this easily by folding an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet in half, in half again, and then in half again.

Write key vocabulary words or concepts on one side of the paper and the definition on the other side. Then? Use them:

- **Quick Quiz:** Put all of the cards in a pile with the word facing up. Have the student say the definition of the word then check for accuracy. Put all of the cards the student got correct in one pile and the incorrect ones in another pile. Review the incorrect ones until they are all answered correctly.
- **Speed Write:** The parent holds the cards and shows a card to the student. The student then writes the answer or definition on a white board or chalk board. The parent checks for accuracy, and the goal is to answer as many correctly in a certain timeframe as possible.
- **Reverse It:** Put all of the cards in a pile with the *definition* facing up. Have the student determine the word then check for accuracy. Put all of the cards the student got correct in one pile and the incorrect ones in another pile. Review the incorrect ones until they are all answered correctly.
- **Game Show:** The parent reads the definition of the word, and the student writes the correct word on a Post-it note then places the Post-it on the wall. Once the student has gone through all words one time correctly, there should be quite a collage of words on the wall! As extra review, the parent reads the definitions again, and the student simply points to the correct word.

5. Comic strip your notes. Some kids learn best by drawing, so this method is for him or her. Have the student review class notes and handouts. Then, using either the comic strip concept review here or Post-it notes, allow the student to draw out concepts! It may sound difficult or even impossible, but the act of reading information and transferring it to doodles or pictures will help the student 'own' the information and remember it in a new way.