

When homework causes headaches

By MYRA LIPMAN

It is fall and the beginning of a new school year. Across the country versions of this scene are taking place.

"Mom, we have so much homework, and Miss Ward just piles it on because she hates us, and she never looks at it, anyway, and I'll never get it done."

Resentment and frustration with homework is virtually inevitable. Partially, it is an age-specific problem, for as children grow older, the world grows more enticing and homework becomes an increasing burden.

Partially it is a school-related problem as teachers are not always fully aware of how long or carefully a student has labored.

Mainly, however, it is a home-related concern. Children

are greatly affected by their parents' attitudes and actions regarding homework.

How have parents contributed to these problems? On the one hand, parents can be too demanding, too helpful, too concerned. Or, they can believe in a totally hands-off policy in order to foster complete independence.

Just as there is no cure for the common cold but only various methods of alleviating the symptoms so, too, there are no prescriptions for handling homework. There are only strategies and guidelines.

Parents are particularly susceptible to the following temptations.

The editorial "we" The error leaps forth at you. After all, the insertion of an "h" in "wich" is a minor point.

It is so tempting to change that glaring error. Certainly your child knows perfectly well that $7+8=15$, but he carelessly forgot to carry the "one."

The young child who becomes accustomed to a parent hovering over his shoulder like an avenging angel will develop a fear of making mistakes that will hamper his or her creativity and ability to attempt new tasks.

There is a world of difference between a child learning that it is important to do his best and that he has to do perfect work.

If you cannot resist this temptation, succumb constructively by teaching your child the invaluable skill of checking over his work.

Tell your child that somewhere in a certain line there is a spelling error. Make it a challenge to locate it. Help him or her use the dictionary.

In the arithmetic homework, point out that there is an error somewhere in the first five problems. Can he or she find it?

Children may resist this tactic because they are interested only in "the answer." Remain firm and calm.

Hostage to homework Your evenings are no longer your own. Your son needs you to sit as a silent spectator while he opens his book with all the deliberate speed of a tortoise.

Your daughter wants you to help find answers that are either self-evident or require extensive knowledge that she knows you do not possess.

Your child may need to feel that you are around "just in case." If not abused, parental presence is a valuable confidence booster.

Generally, however, over-demanding children have recognized that they can control and regulate their parents' evening hours by requesting assistance with their homework.

The temptation to help your child is great, but fostering dependency is harmful. If you find that you are a prisoner of homework, devise ways of breaking out.

Find excuses to slip out of the room and gradually increase the length of time you are absent. With children whose demands are legitimately greater, establish fixed time limits.

Explain, preferably in the morning before they go to school, that you will be available that evening until a certain hour and then you have another commitment.

Adhere to your plan even though your children will complain bitterly that you don't care about them, their schoolwork or their futures. Eschew guilt feelings. Remain firm and calm.

Help your child develop language skills

Early language development is one of the most important factors in encouraging a child's reading success.

Children develop language skills through talking and listening, and Pat Koppman of the International Reading Association Board of Directors offers these tips for parents in helping their youngsters develop good language usage:

- Talk to your child frequently.
- Give objects a name, and teach the child different names for the same object.
- Describe the things that you do and the things that happen around you.

- Speak slowly and distinctly.

- Use full sentences, rather than phrases or single words. Don't use baby talk with a youngster who is no longer a baby.

- Limit television viewing, and discuss those programs that you and your child watch together.

- Give your child the chance to talk with you, and encourage the youngster to ask questions.

- Correct your child's speech errors by saying it the right way. Never criticize or make fun of the child's mistake.

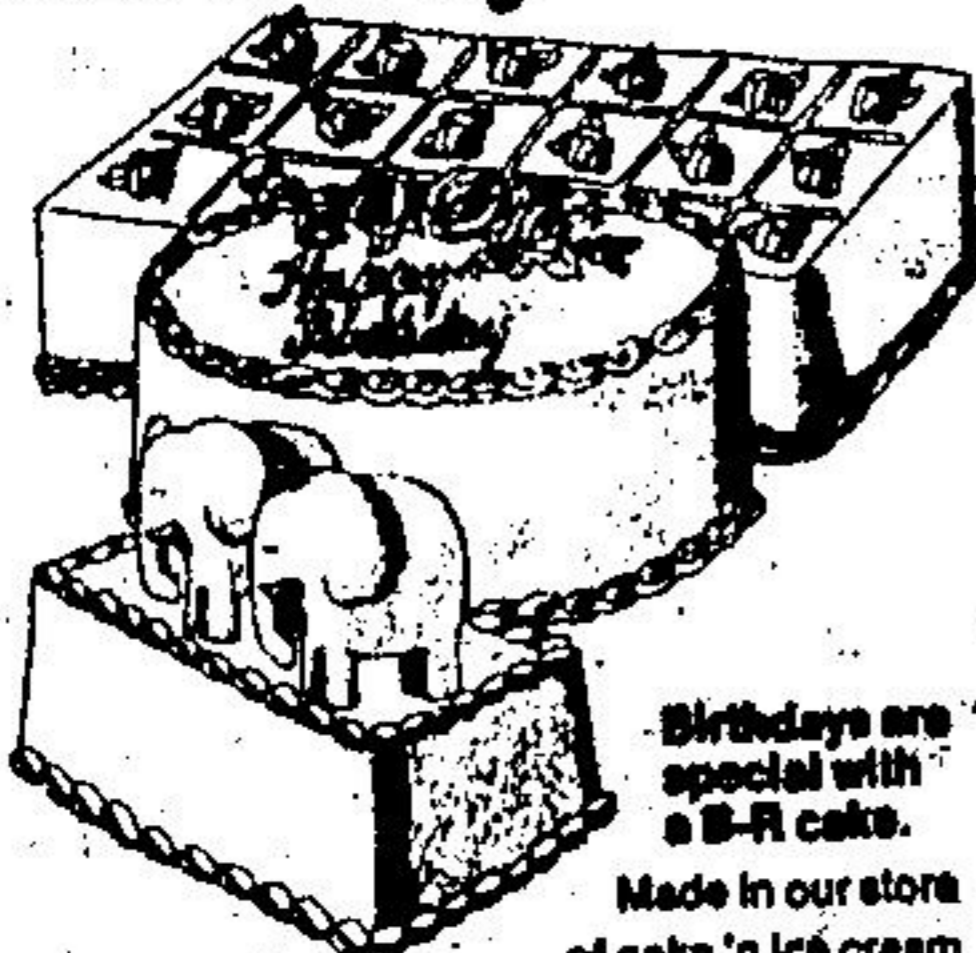
- Praise your child when he or she says things correctly.

Featured for fall



THERE'S PLENTY OF PUFF in the popular western look that spells Fall '81 outerwear as interpreted by Casual Time. Added feature of the poplin jacket is a snap-off hood with chin protector. And it's certain to do a snow job on Mum because it's machine washable!

Cake 'n Ice Cream Birthday Cakes



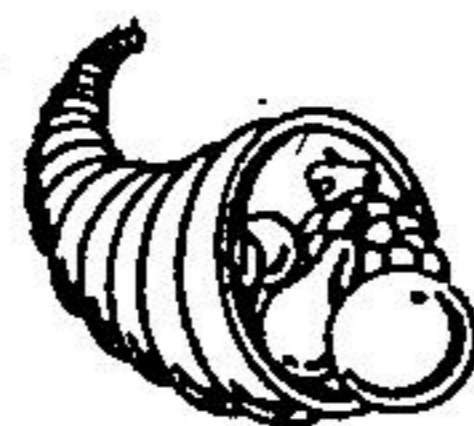
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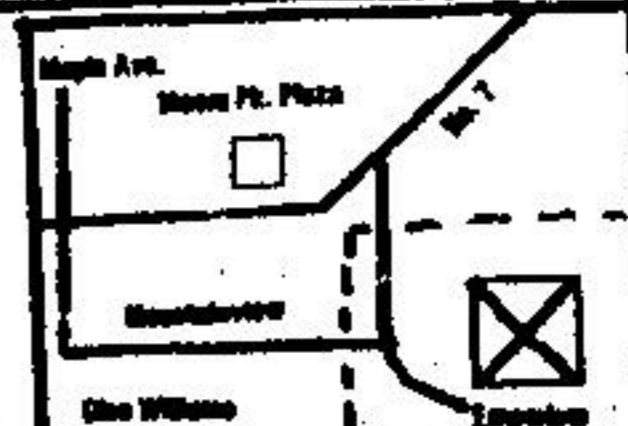
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GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Will Open for the Fall Term

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 9th, 1981

Any changes from last year's bus routing will be advertised in this newspaper

Grade 9 students are to report to the Cafeteria for an introductory assembly at 9:00 a.m.

All students will then report to the rooms indicated on the various notice boards, at 9:30 a.m. At that time, registration procedures will commence. A full day's timetable will then be followed. Dismissal will take place at 3:15 p.m.

Most students will find their names on appropriate class lists, which will be posted in the foyer, or in the corridor near the cafeteria. Students whose names are not listed should report to the Student Services office.

Students having questions concerning registration or courses are invited to contact the school office any day (Monday to Friday) between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. up to Wednesday, August 26.

Students have bring a combination lock with them on the first day of school or \$2.00 to buy a lock. Students are requested not to use magnetic or keyed locks.

THE CAFETERIA WILL OPERATE ON OPENING DAY

