

Homework help for adults is available at the library

It was the typical scenario: young daughter, battling with her math homework, asks mom for help. Confident mom smiles, sits herself down beside her daughter, reads the page in the math book... re-reads the page in the math book. Panic creeps into her brain: "I should know how to do this—hey, I have a bachelor's degree in physics. I used to write whole pages of mathematical equations!"

For a lot of parents, helping with homework can be a real challenge and source of anxiety. Our own schooling is usually in the somewhat distant past, and our children are taught through different methods than those we remember. But help can be as close as a quick visit to the Halton Hills Public Library where we understand that not only do books help with homework, but parents help with homework.

Math is often a problem for parents, and sometimes reading a math book is not enough guidance to help with some of the more tricky concepts. DVDs can show both you and your children how some of these concepts work. For example the *Einstein's Math Video Tutor* series has a different DVD for every age group from age 3 to 12. They are fun to watch and can help give you and your children a little insight into all those tricky homework assignments.

There are lots of strategies out there for helping children not only with the assignment at hand but also with study skills that could last throughout their academic ca-

Clare Hanman



reers. *Homework Improvement* by Roberta Schneiderman is one example of a book that helps parents get children into a constructive homework routine.

Science project ideas are often hard to think of, especially as children get older and are no longer satisfied with "the old baking-soda-and-vinegar trick." Author Janice Pratt VanCleave's series *A+ Projects* can help even the most science-shy parents to help their child find a suitable topic.

For teens struggling with literature courses, sometimes written works are easier to understand when they are read out loud or acted out. The Halton Hills Public Library has a wide range of audiobooks and DVDs of great literary works including Shakespeare that can make complicated texts easier to interpret.

These are just a few examples of how parents can help their children with their homework. For more ideas, you can call, email or visit our library staff at the Georgetown or Acton Branch (contact information can be found at www.hhpl.on.ca). We can help you find the help you need to help your kids.

Clare Hanman is a circulation supervisor at the Halton Hills Public Library

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