Homework Tips for Parents

1. **Show a positive attitude towards mathematics**
   - Children will pick up on negative feelings about mathematics.
   - Encourage efforts and accomplishments – persistence and working through problems are valuable life skills.
   - Make math real; show connections between mathematics and your daily life.
   - Have fun. Puzzles, board games, websites, and brainteasers can provide opportunities for the whole family to have fun together while experiencing mathematics.

2. **Create a supportive work environment**
   - Provide a quiet work area for the child, with appropriate furniture and lighting.
   - Supply the required materials, such as pencils, a ruler, etc.

3. **Guide and support. Don’t teach.**
   - Remember, it is your child’s homework. Resist the temptation to do the work for your child.
   - Set high standards by encouraging your child to do his or her best on each activity.
   - Encourage responsibility by providing a homework tracking sheet that your child can use to record and check off homework assignments.

4. **Ask questions. Be a supportive listener.**
   - Explanations can give children a starting point and can often help them figure out a problem or reinforce a concept. Here are some sample questions:
     - What is the problem?
     - What do you know that may help you with the problem?
     - What do you need to know?
     - Where do you think you should begin?
     - How can you show your work?
     - Do you think your plan is working?
     - What have you done so far?
     - Where can you get help?
     - Does your answer make sense?
     - Is there another way to solve this problem?

5. **Keep lines of communication open**
   - Note down any questions or comments as they come up.
   - Contact your child’s teacher to discuss your concerns.
   - Ask for literature or websites with more information on specific topics or on elementary mathematics in general.