



HOW-TO

HOMEWORK STATION 101

Help your little whiz ace those fractions with tips from organizing expert Leslie Josel!

PICK A LOW-TRAFFIC AREA

Choose a spot where your kid can hunker down free of distractions. The ideal? Close enough to the kitchen that it's easy to grab a snack and far enough away from the TV that she can't turn around to watch it. You want to provide privacy, but still keep her in sight.

2 ASK FOR YOUR CHILD'S INPUT

"People feel inspired and energized when surrounded by their favorite colors," says Josel. So get him to weigh in on options for wallpaper, paint colors and desktop accessories. The more appealing he finds the space, the happier he will be to use it.

3 LIGHT IT RIGHT

Opt for an adjustable work lamp so she can direct light toward the task at hand. Or, consider placing the desk in front of a window, suggests Josel – natural light can help a child stay focused and alert.

4 CHALK IT UP!

Cover a nearby wall with chalkboard paint (or corkboard); it's a perfect way to keep due dates, calendars and to-do lists in plain view.

5 ADD STORAGE

Use bins and baskets to keep the desktop clutter-free and to organize essentials like paper, pens and scissors. Label boxes for fast access.



bonus recipe!

TOAST UP AN AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK

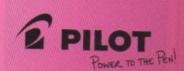
toasted cinnamon-raisin bread • peanut butter • cream cheese • sliced pear • maple syrup • ground cinnamon

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