

## Lesson FOUR

# Teach Your Child How to IMPROVE GRADES

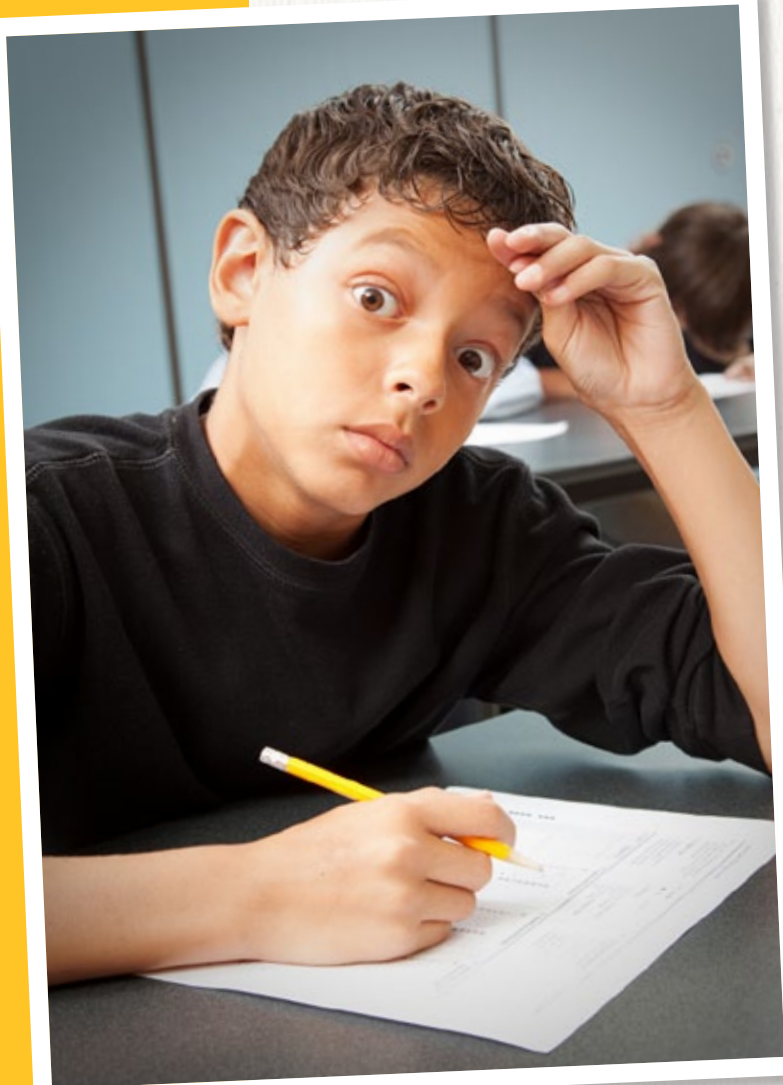
All three of the previous lessons - *how to be organized*, *how to manage time*, and *how to behave* will help to improve your child's grades. But many times a child may struggle

with a particular subject or teaching style. This is not necessarily a crisis situation. One of my children experienced this early on so I met with her 25-year veteran teacher and received some wise information. She said children grow in three areas - physically, emotionally, and academically - but not always at the same time. Some are balanced in growth and others leap in one area and then another. A child may struggle one year and totally get it the next. She said the trick was to keep them confident despite difficulties and to keep an eye on problem areas that don't resolve.

Whether a child has problem areas or has chosen an advanced track, good study habits are the key to improving grades. Teach your child how to fight for good grades with hard work and a confident attitude. There are so many ways to do that depending on the child and the difficulty of class, but the study habits below are the basics for helping every child improve his grades.

*"As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools."*

*- Author unknown*



## **to Teach Your Child to Improve Grades**

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**1. Set the time for daily studying:** Structure is always important. Designate a specific timeframe for homework to be completed. Creating a regular routine will increase productivity. Go to parent/teacher conferences.

**2. Stay informed:** Most schools offer online services to check on grades, homework assignments, and overall progress. Keep yourself up to date on all of these things.

**3. The proper setting:** Provide a quiet location that is readily available. This can be a challenge when there are younger siblings who are free to play. Make the older child's studies a respected priority.

**4. Limit distractions:** Our homes are filled with distractions. Televisions, cell phones, and video games just to name a few. The use of these items should not be allowed during homework time. The mind should be focused on the task at hand.

**5. Be a cheerleader:** Always show support and give encouragement. Reward strong effort as well as results. We want our children to always give their best.

**6. Provide guidance:** We all get stumped sometimes. Make sure helpful resources are available when needed. These might include yourself, school-provided telephone services, or school-approved online assistance. A child should always be able to ask a question and get an answer.

**7. Work first:** Just like their parents, children have busy lives these days. Homework should always come before sports and social activities. Make sure education is the number one priority.

**8. Notes:** Make sure your child develops an excellent note-taking system. Experts believe an outline form of note-taking is the most efficient method. However, all children are different, so just make sure they have a system that works for them.

**10. Plan ahead:** Tests and projects require plenty of planning. Provide tips and techniques that will bring the top-notch results that are desired.