

Making the Most of Homework Time

October 2010

Article: Structuring Out-of-School-Time to Improve Academic Achievement. (2009)

Overview: This practice guide from the What Works Clearinghouse contains recommendations and tips for designing and developing academically focused out-of-school-time programs. Recommendations include:

- 1) *Use formal and informal assessment data to inform academic instruction,*
- 2) *Use one-on-one tutoring if possible; otherwise break students into small groups*
- 3) *Provide professional development and ongoing instructional support to all instructors.*

Potential Roadblock: The program cannot afford one-on-one or small group tutoring.

- *Suggested Approach:* If not enough instructors are available to give individual attention to each student, consider incorporating volunteers or pooling instructors with other OST providers.

Potential Roadblock: OST instructors are not familiar with their students because they do not teach them during the school day.

- *Suggested Approach:* Instructors should take advantage of relationships with the school to communicate with the classroom teachers about students' academic and social needs.

Potential Roadblock: *Useful assessment data are not currently available to individualize instruction.*

- *Suggested Approach:* If the student assessment data available are not adequate for evaluating the needs of the student, the OST program should administer its own formal and/or informal assessments.

Where to Find the Full Article: Go to www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc - click on "Document Library" and click on "Academic Enrichment and Homework Help" under "Activities, Content and Curriculum."

Article: Homework Club/Help in After School Programs: How to make this Time Productive

Overview: This article provides strategies on incorporating homework time in your program, such as:

- Construct a Parent/Staff/Student Homework Agreement:
- Provide a Daily Sign In/Out Log
- Post Homework Time Rules
- Provide a Suitable Homework environment
- Instill a Discipline Policy
- Provide Rewards & Incentives
- Have Break Time Before Homework Time

Where to Find the Full Article: <http://www.afterschoolclubideas.com/homework-clubhelp-in-after-school-programs-%E2%80%93-how-to-make-this-time-productive/>

Academic Resource: Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)

Website: <http://www.free.ed.gov/>

FREE makes it easier to find teaching and learning resources from the federal government. More than 1,500 federally supported teaching and learning resources are included from dozens of federal agencies. New sites are added regularly. Get **new resources** delivered to you several times a week by signing up for the **FREE RSS**.