

# Defeat the BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLUES

## Apps and sites to help your student



**T**he kids are back to school! Whew! As a mom who works from a home office and lives with a couple of rambunctious boys, I must admit that life is just a little bit simpler when they are back in school.

I love them to pieces, but they can be a distraction! Even if my days are a little less crazy during the school year, it picks right back up when school is over at the end of the day.

They are always starving — who knew boys could eat so much? They have practices and activities to get to and of course HOMEWORK. I didn't like homework as a kid and don't like it as a parent, especially as my boys continue to grow older and the homework gets a bit harder.

Their frustration increases, and my patience decreases. I'm already dreading the day they bring home geometry homework, and don't even get me started on spelling! I'm sure spellcheck has already corrected me at least a dozen times as I write this article.

However, I'm resourceful, and we have super-high-speed internet at home, so there are tools that will make these homework stresses easier. I will do my

best to ensure my kids are better spellers than I am, and I want to give them their best chance at good grades in all their subjects. Here are a couple of sites and apps I recommend:

### KHAN ACADEMY

Khan Academy is well-known in the education world, but a lot of parents are unaware of it. The academy has great, free educational videos on math, science, politics and lots of other topics with content for students from kindergarten to graduate studies. If your child is struggling with a topic, and content is available, I strongly encourage you to check it out.

<http://www.khanacademy.org>

### VOCABULARY SPELLING CITY

This is a great website and app to help your kids prepare for their spelling tests. Many schools implement it districtwide. If your school doesn't, you can always set up a parent account.

Reviewing spelling words is free, and with a premium account, you can also access lessons on vocabulary and writing. I love that I can enter my sons' spelling words and then they can play games and

take practice quizzes to prepare for tests.

<http://www.spellingcity.com>

### ADDITIONAL SITES

If you are looking for a specific subject or topic your child needs help with in school, take a look at the list of suggested apps at Common Sense Media. They break down the apps based on age and topic. You may just find something that makes evening homework a little more manageable.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/homework-help-apps>

Raising kids isn't easy, and parents today face a different set of challenges than previous generations. Technology is a huge part of that. Take advantage of the help that's out there to make your after-school routines a little more bearable. ☑



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Parenting  
Tip

The pace of school is picking up, and that's great. But there can be challenges, too. Cyberbullying is never OK. If your child faces a cyberbully, ask the bully to stop, unfriend them and report them to proper authorities if necessary.