



# Parent to Parent



News for Special Education Parents in Granite School District!

ISSUE # 3

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Mark Your Calendar!

## GENERAL HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS

- ✦ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**  
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- ✦ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**  
Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- ✦ **Help your child with time management.**  
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big

projects especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

- ✦ **Be positive about homework.**  
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- ✦ **When your child does homework, you do homework.**  
Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.
- ✦ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**  
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

- ✦ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**  
Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.
- ✦ **Stay informed.**  
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
- ✦ **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**  
Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in. <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/homeworktips.pdf>

## Upcoming Events!

### LDAU invites you to Spend a Day with Rick Lavoie March 6, 2014 at the Red Lion Hotel

Come learn from Rick Lavoie all about how to help kids with learning disabilities increase their motivation and social skills. The conference also includes food, vendors and networking opportunities.

#### Conference Fees

LDAU Members after February 26, 2015: \$45  
Non-LDAU members after February 26, 2015: \$50

Scholarships are also Available!  
For more information visit:

<http://www.ldau.org/events/lavoie/>

### Whose Decision is it Anyway? Self-Determination and Helping Your Son or Daughter Make Good Decisions

Parents will learn how to effectively support their son/daughter with disabilities in the post-secondary years. Learn how to be a mentor to your young adult as he/she learns how to manage his or her own life. A self-determined person can set goals, make decisions, speak for him or herself and solve problems.

**Tuesday, March 3 6:30-8:30 PM**

Granite Education Center, D-102

2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake

Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/1nFMXTB>

# Check out these resources from the UPC!

*These resources have been provided to you by the Utah Parent Center (UPC). The UPC does not represent or endorse any particular service or point of view. These resources are provided as an informational resource ONLY. We encourage readers to personally research each resource.*

## Useful Apps to Help with Homework!

- **Bookshare** -With this outstanding library of digital books, kids can hear as well as see words, allowing them to be more independent. The app includes great customization options and popular titles. Membership is available to kids with qualifying print disabilities. <https://www.bookshare.org/>
- **Handwriting Without Tears: Wet-Dry-Try Suite for Capitals, Numbers & Lowercase** -Kids get systematic tracing practice while learning letter and number formation on this well-organized app, which uses audio cues. The multisensory approach can help kids with dysgraphia.
- **Kidspiration Maps** -Fun, easy, and inviting graphic organizers cover all subject areas for elementary school kids. This app can be really helpful for kids with executive-functioning issues.
- **News-O-Matic** -Current events and accessibility merge to help kids hear and see what's going on in the news. The "Read to Me" feature helps kids who have auditory-processing issues or difficulty with verbal reasoning.
- **Scan and Read Pro** -This downloadable text-to-speech app can help kids with reading comprehension as they hear words and see them. It's a great tool for kids with dyslexia or cognitive disabilities.
- **Dragon Dictation** -Kids tap "Record" and start talking. When finished, they press "Stop," and the dictated words appear on the screen almost like magic! Kids who struggle with reading or writing can benefit from using *Dragon Dictation* to help with tasks they find difficult.
- **SoundNote**-This app syncs audio with notes taken during the recording and is great for older kids with ADHD or executive-functioning issues. They can go back to their notes and listen to a lesson again and add drawings for visual reminders.
- **Speak it!** Text to Speech-Listening to text helps kids who struggle with reading get information from printed materials. Kids can copy text from emails, documents, web pages, and PDF files and paste it into *Speak It!* One particularly nice feature is that the text is spoken in a high quality voice.
- **Time Timer** -*Time Timer* displays a red disk that quietly gets smaller as time passes. Kids learn that when the red is gone, time is up! This app is perfect for any kid who wants to know "How long?" but has trouble understanding a spoken answer.
- **Math Vs Zombies** - Math Games Grade K - 5 -This action-packed app uses arcade-style gameplay to help kids with skills ranging from basic operations to higher-level multiplication and division. It can be a good choice for kids with dyscalculia.



## Find Us on Facebook!

Stay up to date on upcoming events, and meet other parents in Granite with special needs kids! Look for "Granite Parents of Special Needs Students"