

Are Young Kids Doing Too Much Homework?

January 31, 2017

Slate:

When I toured a public elementary school last spring, one question in particular seemed to make the principal squirm. Do the kindergartners get homework, I asked? Yes, he replied, explaining that it can help to solidify concepts—but he quickly conceded that some parents weren't at all happy about it.

The debate over elementary school homework is not new, but the tirades against it just keep coming. This fall, the *Atlantic* published a story titled “When Homework Is Useless”; you might have also seen the Texas second-grade teacher's no-homework policy that went viral on Facebook around the same time. “Research has been unable to prove that homework improves student performances,” the teacher wrote to class parents.

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First, let's take a close look at the science on how homework affects school performance. By far the most comprehensive analysis was published in 2006 by Duke University neuroscientist and social psychologist Harris Cooper, author of *The Battle Over Homework*, and his colleagues.

Read the whole story: [Slate](#)