# The homework help ladder — a card for the fridge

Start at the first rung, and climb only when the one before is not enough.

1. **Sit nearby**
   “I'm here. Start on your own, and tell me if you need me.”

2. **Ask a question, don't explain**
   “Read me the question out loud. What is it asking you? What's the first thing you'll do?”

3. **Show a similar example, never their own question**
   “Let's do one like it together, then you do yours on your own.”

4. **Write to the teacher**
   “We'll leave this one and tell your teacher where you stopped.”

**Stop when:**

- [ ] They cry or get angry — a short break.
- [ ] The time we agreed on is up.
- [ ] I find the pencil in my own hand.
- [ ] The homework asks for something not taught yet.

**A note for the teacher**

**Which question**

**What they tried**

**Where they stopped, and how long it took**

From the String blog — string.education. Print it, copy it and share it as you like.