



K-5

## HIGH-TECH HOMEWORK

More grade-school teachers are turning a temptation into a teaching tool by assigning kids their homework on a smartphone or tablet. Even textbook publishers have made their content mobile friendly. Check out some classroom-friendly apps you can download now:

▶ **SPLASH MATH** These interactive games teach math skills all the way up to fifth grade. *iTunes*, \$10. Ages 5 to 10.

▶ **MATH AND WORD BINGO** The faster your child can get a BINGO, the higher she scores. *iTunes*, *Google Play*, \$1. Word: Ages 5 to 8; Math: Ages 8 to 10

▶ **FUTABA WORD GAMES** Multiple kids can play this word recognition game at once. *iTunes*, free. Ages 4 to 8.

▶ **TOP-IT** Everyday Math students boost their simple addition and number comparison skills. *iTunes*, \$2. Ages 5 to 10.

▶ **STARFALL'S LEARN TO READ** Zac the Rat will help your newbie reader master the sights and sounds of vowels and words. *iTunes*, *Google Play*, and *Amazon*, \$3. Ages 4 to 6. —KP



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## Great Teacher Gifts

With **National Teacher Day** (May 7) and the end of the school year fast approaching, we asked instructors to share the gifts that mean the most. Get ready to warm some hearts!

**Gift cards** Bump up the personal touch by slipping the card inside a scrapbook or attaching it to a box of homemade cookies.

**Supplies** Many teachers shell out their own money for classroom necessities like crayons and tissues. Ask your child's teacher what she

needs for this year (or next) and stock up.

**Framed photos**—of the class, of a field trip, of your child alongside his teacher.

**A note from your child** Give your kiddo some prompts to start him off: "Thank you for always being so . . ." or "I really like

it when you . . ." A preschooler can draw a picture and dictate his thoughts to you.

**Positive feedback** Write to the principal, praising the teacher's specific qualities in a letter. Then include a copy when you send the teacher a thank-you note.

—Keren Perles