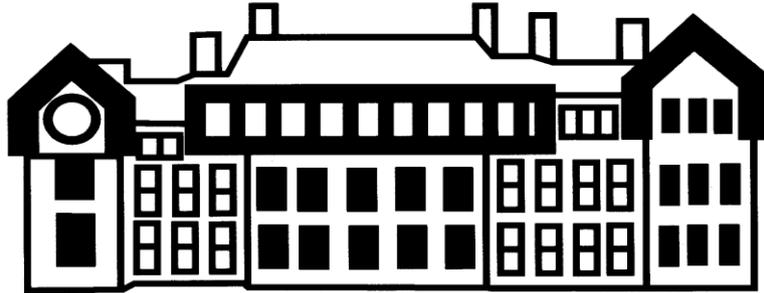


GORDON



SCHOOL

Guidance on Supporting Children with Home Learning

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1. Introduction

We know that home learning has the potential to be a frustrating experience for children and their parents/carers. Below are some tips to help make home learning a more positive experience.

2. Establish a routine and be organised.

Develop a daily/weekly home learning routine with your child.

A written or visual plan displayed in a prominent place in the home is ideal. It should include a particular place set aside for home learning and an agreed plan as to what happens during home learning time. It should also be flexible enough to take into account after-school activities.

Your child will have a Home Learning folder. Encourage your child to keep their folder in a specific place so it does not get lost or damaged.

It is helpful to make sure that everything needed for the next school day is packed up the night before and placed by the front door.

3. Ensure there is a suitable home learning environment.

The place for home learning needs to be as quiet as possible, with a cleared space for work and items required at hand, such as pens, pencils, rubber, books, etc.

4. Find the best time.

Check when the home learning tasks need to be returned to the teacher so that you can decide on the best time for your child to do their home learning. Keep in mind that your child may be very tired after school. They may need a break and something to eat and drink before starting home learning. Talk to your child about what suits them. Is the same day as the activity being set the best time? Is there a quieter time later in the week? Would working at the weekend be better? Would doing some home learning first thing in the morning be more beneficial?

5. Daily reading is essential.

Lots of practice is required for children to develop and master literacy skills. Read aloud with your child when they are becoming frustrated. This helps them to understand and enjoy what they are reading and it still enables them to learn. Your child can also read along with books on a CD or online.

An adult reading a bedtime story to a child from a book slightly more difficult than the child can read themselves, can help the child learn new vocabulary, generate ideas and be an enjoyable experience for both.

For ideas on helping your child learn to read please access the document *“Make Reading Fun”* on the school website: www.gordonprimary.co.uk. You can also access documents on how to help your child with maths and science on our website.

6. How to get started.

Some children can become discouraged when faced with large amounts of work. Help your child to divide tasks into manageable chunks and give breaks between tasks. Encourage your child to produce quality work rather than rushing tasks.

Go over the home learning requirements to ensure your child understands what to do. Read instructions aloud when you know it is hard for them to decode accurately. If necessary, practise the first example or two with them.

Help your child to generate ideas for writing tasks and projects before they start work. If necessary, revise vocabulary that they may need. Sometimes you may help to develop a writing plan.

Encourage them to present work using their personal strengths - for example, they could use pictures if they are good at art. When necessary and appropriate, scribe for your child so that they can get their ideas on paper more accurately.

If possible, allow your child to use the computer. Show them how to use a spell checker and encourage them to learn touch typing skills on a suggested Typing Tutor program. More information on the use of technology is available on the British Dyslexia Association website: www.bdatech.org

7. Monitor your child’s home learning and give feedback

If your child is slow to complete tasks, encourage them to use a timer and see how much they can do in five minutes sections. Please remember that if homework is regularly taking too long or is too difficult, you should discuss this with your child’s teacher. You can also make an appointment to see the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Give your child lots of praise as they complete homework tasks. Be specific about what they have done well.

Writing a short note to the class teacher at the bottom of your child’s home learning sheet is a great way to provide quick feedback. You may also wish to meet informally with the class teacher to check that your child is completing class work correctly and that the home learning tasks are being handed in on time.

Please remember that, with the exception of research or investigative projects, the purpose of home learning is to practice something that your child is already familiar with. If home learning is too difficult, you should discuss this with the child’s teacher.

For further advice and support on how to support all children, please go to the British Dyslexia Association website: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk