

Bedgrove Infant School

Home Learning

Autumn 2016

Aims:

- ▣ Homework v Home Learning
- ▣ Crucial Facts (that resonate our School Ethos)
- ▣ Views on Homework
- ▣ Rationale for Home Learning
- ▣ Home Learning Opportunity
- ▣ Benefits of Learning at Home
- ▣ Best Practice
- ▣ Interaction & Real Life Context
- ▣ Home Learning Policy
- ▣ Question and Answer time
- ▣ Useful websites/ documents

Homework v Home Learning

Oxford Dictionary Definitions

homework:

'work (to be) done at home, esp. lessons to be done by a schoolchild at home'

home:

'dwelling-place, fixed residence of family or house-hold'

learning:

'knowledge got by study, esp. of language or literature or history as subjects of systematic investigation'

Crucial Facts

- ▣ By the age of 3 years old a child's brain is $\frac{3}{4}$ formed
- ▣ Play supports physical and emotional development
- ▣ Talking - a child can learn 5,000 words by 6 years old
.....'Chatter Matters'
- ▣ A child will remember:
 - 20% of what they hear
 - 30% of what they see
 - 50% of what they see and hear
 - 80% of what they do
 - 95% of what they know and TEACH YOU**

Views on Homework

‘Our belief is that the youngest children shouldn’t have homework. They should go home and play and interact with their families and learn about the world that way.’ Tarun Kapur, CE of Dean Trust (10 academies)

Children are not like little adults and therefore cannot be expected to study at home as adults do. Children spend six hours a day at school and are usually tired or ‘filled’ with school learning by the end of the day. Hertfordshire Primary School Policy

Home Learning Rationale

- ▣ Involves family
- ▣ Can happen at any time
- ▣ Directed by the child
- ▣ Learning in a familiar context
- ▣ Greater variety of approaches
- ▣ Meets the needs of all learning styles
- ▣ Ranges from simple to multifaceted
- ▣ Enjoyable
- ▣ Memorable

Home Learning Opportunity

e.g. Building Blocks:

Problem solving.

“I want to build X. How do I do that?”

Imagination.

Children can follow their own plan, or they can share a friend’s vision and work together

Self-expression.

Blocks offer many ways for young language learners to explore, express themselves, and demonstrate what they are learning across languages

Mathematics. Important concepts and skills are practised and strengthened through block play, including length, measurement, comparison, number, estimation, symmetry, balance.

Continuity and Permanence. Block play engages spatial sense and motor abilities; it can be a solo or a group effort; block creations can stand for an indefinite period of time.

Creativity.

Blocks and other loose parts can be moved freely by children, to be combined and recombined in countless ways

Science.

Blocks offer opportunities to test hypotheses /build scientific reasoning

Self-esteem.

Children discover that they have ideas and that they can bring their ideas to life by creating, transforming, demolishing, and re-creating something unique

Social and emotional growth.

Children learn to take turns /share materials, develop new friendships, become self-reliant, increase attention span, cooperate with others, develop self-esteem

Development in all areas.

Block play requires fine and gross motor skills.

Benefits of Learning at Home

- ▣ Family oriented
- ▣ Relaxed
- ▣ Communication friendly spaces
- ▣ Incidental
- ▣ Non-conventional
- ▣ Varied
- ▣ Contextual
- ▣ Different backdrops

Best Practice

- ▣ Reading stories – ‘a book is only as good as you make it’
- ▣ Asking questions
- ▣ Talking about shared experiences and observations
 - Have you ever?
 - What can you see?
 - Do you remember when we...?

- ▣ Playing games – speaking and listening
- ▣ Repetition of learning
- ▣ Extending sentences verbally
- ▣ Practical experiences
- ▣ Everyday experiences – using what is around you
- ▣ Developing gross and fine motor skills

Mrs McKay

- ▣ Learning in a real life context

What is the best way to learn about an orange?



Mrs Gurney

- ▣ <http://www.counton.org/games/virtualmathfest/snakesladders.html>

Mrs Gurney



Home Learning Policy

- ▣ Parents are a child's first teacher
- ▣ Emphasis on 'learning together'
- ▣ Opportunities to apply skills and knowledge..... whilst having fun:
 - Skim a stone
 - Run around in the rain
 - Fly a kite
 - Catch a fish with a net
 - Eat an apple straight from a tree
 - Play conkers
- ▣ Providing children with creative, out of school experiences

Final Thought

Will a child remember sitting at a table writing a page in an exercise book about Autumn.....

or

...are they more likely to remember walking in the woods?

**Questions and Answers re
Home Learning**

Useful web-links/documents

- ▣ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9121048/Michael-Gove-scrap-homework-rules.html>
- ▣ <http://www.counton.org/games/virtualmathfest/snakesladders.html>