

1. Make Time

Make time, even 5 minutes could help!

Your child will benefit from you getting involved in their homework tasks.

If your son/daughter knows that you care they will be more likely to want to do homework and hand it in on time.

You can encourage learning while you are out and about together, in the car, shopping, eating meals and even in your local community.

It's also a good idea to set a routine for homework (and stick to it) – like after tea. It helps to know what homework your child has and get a sense of how long it should take them.

There's always something happening that you can both talk and learn about!



2. Experience Counts

Try and link life and leisure experience to your child's school work e.g. visits to the park, museum or days out.

Remember your child will enjoy spending time with you alone. Learning together and sharing experiences will help your relationship grow stronger. Your child will enjoy learning about you and your experiences, as well as doing new things together.

3. Take an Interest

Let them know you want to be involved.

Make time to ask your child about what they are studying and what they have learned. Another great way to show you are interested is to attend school activities such as parents' evenings and sport events.

There are lots of ways you can help your child with their homework, especially if they get stuck. Have a chat about what they did last time it happened and what you could do to help, or where you could both look for help.



8. Give Praise

Let them know they're doing a good job!

Let your child know that you are pleased with their progress. Help them to make activities and learning tasks feel more achievable by showing them just how much they have already achieved.

Remember – you can show them how not giving up and hard work can lead to success.



9. Go to School!

Talk with your child's teachers – they will be pleased that you want to get involved.

Let them know that you are keen to help your child with their study and that you want to get involved in their learning experiences.

You could ask them questions about:

- How your child is doing at school
- What they might be struggling with
- How you can help your child
- What your child's behaviour is like at school

10. Reward Progress

Set goals and provide treats for achievements.

Let your child know that you are there to encourage and support them to learn. Let them know that they are making good progress and that you are pleased with their efforts. Help them to try new experiences and get the most out of their time at school.



4. Lend a Hand

Let them know you're there to help.

Help your child to use resources that are available to them such as the local library, the Internet or books. Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations and make sure – that if they need help they know they can ask you to give them a hand.

5. Watch the Telly

Use TV programmes as prompts for discussion and learning, e.g. popular soaps and soap characters' lives could provide topics for discussion.

Make sure TV time is a set time and that it does not get in the way of study time. Make TV a treat for progress rather than a background feature.



6. Remove Distractions

Help your child concentrate by creating the best learning environment, e.g. take the dog out of the room or turn the volume down on the TV.

Provide an area that is light and fairly quiet. It doesn't have to be fancy – the kitchen table, a space in their bedroom or a corner of the living room will be fine, as long as homework is given priority and they are not interrupted.

7. Have a Look

Check to see how your child is getting on with their homework.

By seeing their progress you will find out if they need any more help or encouragement.

When they've finished, have a look and see how well they've done with their work.



Age related suggestions to support your child in reading, writing & maths:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths/>

Oaklands Junior School



Top Tips for Homework

Maths

Alongside any maths work sent home, you can support your child by helping them learn key number facts:

- ◇ Adding and subtracting numbers up to 20 e.g. 7+8, 13-9
- ◇ Learning times tables and related division facts e.g. $3 \times 7 = 21$; $21 \div 3 = 7$
- ◇ Doubling and halving numbers
- ◇ Understanding the place value of digits - e.g. hundreds, tens and ones

Useful resources include a deck of cards or 10-sided dice. They can be used in a range of ways e.g.

Dice:

- Roll two dice and add or multiply the two numbers together. You could also find the difference between the two dice.
- Roll one die and double it

Cards:

- Turn over two cards and complete the multiplication calculation. Jack = 11, Queen = 12 and a King means squared. So, if a 9 and a King were turned over, the answer would be $9^2 = 81$.

You could also add the two cards or find the difference.

For further ideas on games and activities to play with your child, go to the school website:

Top Tips for Parents

- ⇒ Be positive about maths. Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" - your child may start to think like that themselves.
- ⇒ Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.
- ⇒ Praise your child for effort rather than for being "clever". This shows them that by working hard they can always improve.

English

Reading is the foundation to writing and the more than you can encourage your child to read, the more their writing will improve.

As part of their homework, children are expected to read at least five times a week. To try to make this a more positive and productive time, see the '10 tips on hearing your child read' section in our 'Helping your child with English' document.

For all primary school children, even if they are a confident reader, we would recommend the following to help them continue to develop their reading skills:

- ◇ Children read aloud to an adult at least once a week.
- ◇ An adult reads a more challenging book to your child at least once a week.
- ◇ Spend time discussing what you are reading (before, during and after each 'session') — see the 'Reading Comprehension Questions' section of our 'Helping your child with English' document.

Other ways of supporting your child in reading and writing at home are:

- ◇ Spending time with them editing their homework.
- ◇ Playing word games and doing activities like hangman, wordsearches & crosswords.
- ◇ Use spelling apps such as 'Squeebles', 'Mr Thorne's spellbook', 'Spelling Shed' or 'Spelling hangman'.
- ◇ Encourage them to keep a diary, write a blog, send emails and / or letters to family and friends.
- ◇ Spending time talking! Listening to and taking part in discussions will widen your child's vocabulary and improve their sentence structure.

The more time you are able to invest in your child's reading and writing, the more benefit they and you will see. However, striving to get a balance can be difficult, and regular shorter sessions is better for you and your child!