

Dear Parents

We hope that SfA advice sheets are helping you to support your child while they are at home. Please let your child's school know what you think and if they could be improved.

This week we are talking about what to do if your child doesn't want to learn at home. Children are used to learning at school, not at home and it can be difficult for them to work when they may want to play. So don't worry if you have this problem.

Try our tips and don't give up!

How to help children to work at home:

1. Have a routine that works for everybody.
2. Allow children to be comfortable and to move.
3. Tasks shouldn't be too long or too difficult.
4. Talk to your child about how they learn and the task they are doing.
5. Praise hard work and make it fun!

How to make sure that children enjoy learning at home:

1. Children only need to sit at a table to write.

Most children find it difficult to sit still for long and they only need to sit at a table to write. When reading, or doing other learning, if they are comfortable and work well somewhere else, that is fine!

2. Allow children to move if they wish.

Young children need to move. If they can't move, they find it difficult to concentrate and to learn. Allow your child to move from one place to another if they want. Give them quick exercise breaks every 30 minutes or so (for example, jumping on the spot, stretching, touching their knee to their elbow).

3. Understand how long a child can stay on one task.

Young children can often only concentrate on a task for short periods of time. Nursery and Reception

children may only be able to concentrate on one task for 5-10 minutes, while Year 5 and 6 children can focus for up to 40 minutes on tasks that interest them. They will need short breaks from work.

4. Ask your child what helps them to work well at school.

Everybody is slightly different in the way they learn, and your child is an expert in how they learn, so ask them what works best for them.

5. Don't expect your child to know the answer right away.

Reading is not like Maths, where there is usually one correct answer. When children answer questions about what they have read they are often asked to say what they think, or to look for clues hidden in the story. At school children always talk about the book with their classmates and their teacher. You can help your child to understand and answer questions well by reading the book too and talking about it with them.

It is the same with writing, at school children talk through what they are going to write and how they will write it before they start. It is important to do this at home too.

6. Make it fun and motivate them!

Make learning fun and give a simple reward for working hard to learn. This could be a favourite game or reading a book together. It is best not to use food as a reward.

Remember to keep learning fun and praise children when they work hard. If there is a problem, talk to them about what would make it easier for them.

We'd love our [@successforall](#) schools to share their home learning! Why not ask your parents to include us in your Tweets?



Home Learning Advice - Roots

20th April 2020

No 2



How to help children to work at home:

1. Have a routine that works for everybody.
2. Allow children to be comfortable and to move.
3. Tasks shouldn't be too long or too difficult.
4. Talk to your child about how they learn and the task they are doing.
5. Praise hard work and make it fun!

Roots Children – Years 1 & 2

Phonics/Letter Sounds: Show your child a letter or group of letters, ask them to tell you the sound. If they don't know it, tell them what it is and have them practise looking at the letter or group of letters and saying it. Repeat until they know all the alphabet sounds. It is best to focus on 1-3 new sounds at a time.

Remember that sounds are different to 'letter names' which you know from alphabet chants. Also, remember to use 'pure sounds' (no 'uh' at the end of the sound).

Depending on which sounds your child has already mastered you can choose from the lists on the following document:



Letter-%20Sound%20Correspondence

Spelling: Some words cannot be sounded out and need to be learnt. We teach these by 'Say-Spell-Say', saying the word, then saying the names of the letters, and then saying the word again while looking at and remembering the word. Your child will know how to do this. Many of the Spellings your child needs to learn are shown on the list in the SIGHT/RED WORDS column of this document:



Reading%20Roots%20Sequence%20for%20

Ask your child to write these words and if they can't spell them then teach them, one at a time. Repeat **Say-Spell-Say** for each word six times daily so they will remember the spelling.

Read with your child daily: Reading to your child and having them read to you every day for at least 30 minutes is very important. Your school will give you access to the Shared Stories your child is reading and detailed guidance for reading these can be found in this document:



Helping%20your%20child%20to%20learn%

Remember you should read the book every day for a week. Once your child has successfully read the Shared Story, they can progress to the next one (so if they have read Shared Story 15 this week, they can read Shared Story 16 next week).

You can also find good online books at <https://www.storylineonline.net/> and audible books to listen to are free during the Covid crisis at <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>.

Writing: It is important that your child practises writing. They can use chalks outside to write letters, words and sentences. Similarly, with sand, flour, lentils or shaving foam! The following document shows letter cues that will help your child to form letters:



Writing Letter Cues.pdf

For more advanced writing your child can write sentences, paragraphs or more about how they feel about being off school, at home or something different they have done since being at home. Help them choose something positive and talk it through so that they have some clear ideas to write about. Provide them with the beginning of the first sentence. For example 'I like being at home because.....' or 'I have been able to.....' Encourage them and praise their writing, even if it has errors. Remember that young writers take time to spell every word correctly and to get everything right.