

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 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.

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!

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.

Why are you receiving this advice?

Home Learning – Wings Years 2-6

20th April 2020 No 2 Poetry



Your child uses a programme called Success for All (SfA) at school to learn to read and write. At each level of the Wings programme, children read real books. The following resources complement these books their teacher reads in class and will help them when they are back at school.

If you are unsure which group your child is in, you can ask your child or choose a level and go up or down as needed. But poetry can be enjoyed by all ages so feel free to enjoy as many poems as you like!

Wings 1 & 2 - The Adventures of Isobel

Before reading: Talk about what *ravenous* (extremely hungry), *self-reliant* (being independent) and *banish* (sent away) mean.

Then give your child these definitions and ask them to look out for them in reading:
(*zwieback* = a kind of sweet bread toasted in slices
bugaboo = an object of terror that is all in the mind)

Enjoy the poem! You can watch here:
<https://youtu.be/1MBobPMUFTw> and read it here:
<https://allpoetry.com/Adventures-Of-Isabel>

After reading discuss the following questions:

- How was the bear feeling when it met Isobel?
- What happened when she met the wicked witch?
- Why do you think she cut the giant's head off?

Wings 3 - Noisy Poems

Before Reading: Identify that it's a poem and discuss differences from stories – e.g. it rhymes, it is like a song, often uses capital letters at the beginning of a line even when there is no full stop.

Enjoy the poem! You can read it here and complete some activities. Why not write your own too!

http://www.ichild.co.uk/documents/activities/pdf/Key_ST2_Poems.pdf

Links to poetry publishing sites:

<https://www.poetry4kids.com/links/publish-your-poetry/>

Wings 4 - Poems About School

Before reading: Ask the children what they think it is like to be a teacher at school.

Then enjoy reading 'Behind the staffroom door' by Brian Moses: http://www.brianmoses.co.uk/brian_moses_my_poems.html
Hear it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAEYVLgGd7w>

After reading discuss whether you liked the poem and why! Discuss other topics about school someone could write a poem about? List the suggestions. Use this to encourage your child to write their own poem about school? Maybe find a site to publish it on or share it on Twitter!

Wings 5 - Animal Poetry

Before Reading: Say to your child it does not matter at this point if they don't understand everything in the poem – just enjoy the sound of it and the general impression that they get from it.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43687/the-tyger>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMwNvzRKX64>

After reading discuss the following questions:

- What is the poet asking? (who created the tiger?)
- What's the poet's impression of the tiger? (*it is awesome/magnificent/ fearsome*)
- What's the poet's impression of the creator of the tiger? (*magnificent/ all-powerful*)

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!

Free sites for Poetry! NB Always check the sites before your child visits them for content, suitability etc.

Listen to poetry read aloud:

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

Use these free websites to help children and teens learn, practice, listen to, and enjoy poetry:

<https://wehavekids.com/education/k12interactivepoetry>

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

