

Home Learning Advice – General

1st May 2020 No 3



Dear Parents

We hope that you and your child are settling into a routine for working together. This week's advice will help you to understand how schools deal with common problems when working with children.

Think about what went well and what could be improved.

Sometimes, your child might work very well, but other sessions may be more difficult. Don't feel bad when it doesn't go so well. It can happen in school too. Teachers always think about what went well with lessons and what didn't so they can improve future sessions. Some sessions will always be more successful than others, but it is important to keep trying.

Show children the learning behaviour you want to see

Children don't always know how to behave to learn well. At school, teachers show children the behaviour that will help them to learn well.

This week we will think about a learning behaviour, '**Help and Encourage Others**'. Children will know this behaviour from school where they learn to work well with other children. They now need to understand how they can work well with you. Show them what you want them to do, so they understand. They can also help and encourage you by letting you know how you can best help them to learn. Talk with them about home learning.

Show your child what you want them to do, for example, to listen carefully, to think about the learning and to finish the task. Praise them when they do as you ask.

Every family will be slightly different in how they work together and help and encourage each other, but it is very important at this difficult time when we are all at home so much.

How to help children to work at home:

1. Have a routine and allow children to be comfortable.
2. Think about sessions and what went well.
3. Tasks shouldn't be too long or too difficult.
4. Talk to your child about how they learn and model behaviour that will help them to learn well.
5. Don't criticise, praise hard work and make it fun!

Praise hard work

It is important to praise the effort your child makes when they are working. Good learners work hard to get better at a skill and don't give up when it is difficult. When your child does a task well, praise them for working hard so they come to understand that their success is the result of their hard work.

Try not to complain when you don't think your child has worked well. Talk to them about why there was a problem and try to find something that will help.

Talk about your child's behaviour

If your child is not doing as you have asked, try not to tell them that they are 'naughty'. We don't want them to see themselves as a 'naughty' person who cannot change. Instead, discuss their behaviour with them, saying what you do or don't like ("I like the way you could tell me about what you had read," or "I see that you have stopped reading, but I would like you to read three more pages"). By doing this, they will begin to understand how you want them to behave and how they can do the right thing. All teachers know how important this is.

Praise and rewards are important

Children need praise and small rewards (a simple clap, or time playing a favourite game), so they feel valued when they do as you have asked. This way, they will be keen to repeat their good behaviour in the future.

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



Nursery and Reception Children

Talk to your children:

Talk to your child about what is happening during the day for example at bath time, when cleaning, things your child shows an interest in. You will then both be focusing on the same things. This will help your child to understand what you are saying.

Extend children's vocabulary:

Use visual aids: Visual aids are great in developing vocabulary. These can be everyday objects, pictures from a book or on a computer for example showing a child a nappy at changing time and saying “nappy” too. This helps the child to understand what a “nappy” is and what is going to happen.

Read to and with your child:

Sharing a book with a child is fun! When reading, encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages themselves. Before reading you could ask, “Can you look at the pictures and tell me what you think will happen in this book?” “What characters do you think might be in our story?” Whilst they are reading the book you could ask, “What can you tell me about the story so far?” “How do you think the story will end?” After reading you could ask, “What was your favourite part of the story?”

Phonics/Blending:

As you continue to keep practising all of the alphabet sounds, focusing on 1-3 new sounds at a time, keep blending the sounds and say the whole word in one go. Here are some more words you can blend, bad, dad, had, lad, mad,

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pad, sad, tad and glad. Encourage your child to write the letters on card or paper and ask them to build these words, In doing so, children can clearly see how letters spell sounds and how these sounds can be blended into words. See the Letter Cues document for the formation of each letter:



SFA Letter Cues.docx

Maths:

Weather chart: Make a simple chart to show the 7 days of the week. With your child, record the weather daily. Discuss what the weather is like today and what it was like yesterday. Count how many sunny days, windy days, rainy days there have been. Could we have 8 cloudy days in one week?

Physical Development:

You can develop your children's fine motor skills by using scissors. Have a go at these activities; give your child a sheet of paper or a paper plate and get them to snip a fringe around the edge; draw straight, thick lines for your child to cut around; ask your child to try cutting out a circle, triangle, square and a rectangle.

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