

Home Learning Advice – General No.4

15th May 2020



Dear Parents

Over the past few weeks we have talked about how to engage your child in learning. This time we will give more pointers on how to help your child to work hard and do their best.

What motivates children to work?

Everybody needs to feel that there is a purpose to what they do, children are just the same. So, children need to understand that you care that they work hard. There are several ways you can do this.

Set expectations

To care about their work, children, need to know what is expected of them for each task, so it is important that you tell them before they start a task. If you would like them to read a certain number of pages or to write a certain amount, then tell them before they begin. Remember this needs to be at the right level for their age and their reading and writing skills.

'Complete tasks'

Children will know this behaviour from school where they understand that completing tasks is an important part of learning. Tell them what you want them to do and what you expect a 'completed task' to look like. Be as clear as possible and discuss any difficulties they may have with them before they start.

Provide some support as they work

If your child seems to have lost interest in their task, it may well be because they need some help. Children can sometimes find themselves 'stuck' as they work at a task. They might have read a word they don't understand or, if they are writing, they might need help to work out what to write next.

The key here is to ask questions. Ask why they have stopped work, is there a problem, can you help? Then try to help them to take the next step and keep

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!

going. Children get this help from their teacher when they are in school and it is important for them to learn.

Feedback is very important

When children work at home, they need to feel that what they have done matters, so it is important that an adult looks at their work and makes them feel valued:

- Check if your child has met your expectations for what you agreed should be a 'completed task'. Praise what they have done to work towards completing the task. If it is not finished, then agree with them what they could do to complete it and ask them to do so.
- If the school has a system for collecting children's work and providing feedback, then please make sure the work is sent to the teacher. Read any feedback from the teacher with your child, discuss everything they did well, and gain some ideas for what they can work to improve next time.
- Children may not be able to send their work to their teacher, so it is very important that **you** give them feedback. It is best to be very positive about what they have done well. Many schools use '**two stars and a wish**'. This is a simple model which means that you would tell your child two things they have done well, and one way they could improve their work next time. For example, "*Your writing has some excellent ideas (first star) and your handwriting is very good (second star), next time please could you try to improve your spelling (a wish)*".

Remember to make this 'wish' part of your expectations when they start their next task and discuss with them how they will achieve the 'wish'.

Home Learning Advice – Wings Years 2-6

15th May 2020

No: 4 - Fiction traditional tales, fables and legends



Why are you receiving this advice?

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 the lessons they do.

This time around we've chosen the theme of traditional tales, fables and legends as these will be read and enjoyed throughout their time at school. Again, the family might be able to work together and enjoy each other's activities.

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



Here are some ideas to support children and different levels of the programme:

Wings 1 & 2 - Traditional Tales

A traditional tale is a story that has been told for many years and there are many familiar stories such as Goldilocks, Three Little Pigs etc. It might be useful to have a look here to find out about the features of traditional tales: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-traditional-tale>

Little Red Riding Hood is the well-known tale of a little girl who goes through the woods to her grandmother's house. Enjoy it together here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks1-little-red-riding-hood-index/zmnrqp3> There are lots of activities to do there too.

You can also enjoy it here:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/little-red-riding-hood>. Try to complete the story review here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/review.pdf> and there are some story activities here <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/sites/kids/files/attachment/short-stories-little-red-riding-hood-worksheet.pdf> Here's a game you can play to learn and practise vocabulary: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/fairy-stories>

Wings 3 – 4 - Fables

Aesop's Fables are really fun reads that children can read over and over. They are stories that were told by an ancient Greek man and they often include animals and help us to learn a moral (a life lesson). We suggest enjoying The Mouse and the Lion, you can watch it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03ywckk/five-fables-2-the-mouse-and-the-lion> You can read it here: <http://www.read.gov/aesop/007.html> Then try this activity: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/sites/kids/files/attachment/story-time-the-lion-and-the-mouse-worksheet-v2.pdf>

There are several short ones you can enjoy here too: <https://www.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/aesops-fables.pdf> and here: <http://www.read.gov/aesop/001.html>

Wings 5 - Legends

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is a story about a Knight who accepts a challenge from the mysterious Green Knight. Enjoy this more challenging traditional tale told in six short video clips.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks2-sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight/z6gncqt>
There is another animated version here to enjoy <http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/playstory2762-sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight.html>

Try this Quiz here to test your knowledge of key features of myths, tales and legends:

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks1/english/reading-fairy-tales-characteristics/>

Here are some questions you could think about when reading:

1. What are the main features of traditional tales, fables, myths and legends?
2. Why have these stories been enjoyed and told for so many years?

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