

Year 5 Tips for parents

We have compiled a list of ideas to help you support your child's learning at home.

We hope you find them useful.

Tips to make homework time easier:

- Have a regular place for your child to do homework. Use a desk or table in a quiet room. Be sure there's plenty of light.
- If they do not have homework, have them use the time to read.
- Find a regular time for homework. You may want to make a rule: "No television until homework is finished."
- During homework time, turn off the TV and music.
- Help your children plan how they will use their time.
- Set a good example. While your child is doing homework, spend some time reading or working yourself. Then when homework is done, you can both talk about how much you've accomplished.
- Do the most difficult homework first. Save "easy" subjects for later, even if they're more fun.
- Try having your child teach you the homework. The teacher always learns more than the student.

Ideas for reading:

- Make books special. Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favourite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.
- Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series or to a second book by a favourite author, or ask the librarian for additional suggestions
- Let your child see you use a dictionary.
- Talk about what you see and do. Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running patter, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.
- Read different types of books to expose your child to different types of writing. Some children prefer nonfiction books.
- Show your child how to summarize a story in a few sentences or how to make predictions about what might happen next. Both strategies help a child comprehend and remember.
- Ask your child to read out loud to you and explain the instructions for a new game, or a synopsis of a TV programme, or a recipe, or the quiz on the bag of the cereal packet

Ideas for writing:

- Let your child document one day in their life (or a pet's, or toy's, or sister's or friend's, or mum's etc). They take photos of significant points in the day. Print the photos and have your child write the details that explain each picture. Bind into a book or folder and show it to everyone.
- Leave notes for your child in his lunch box or school bag. Leave notes for him/her around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for you.
- Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.
- Tell a story, with one person adding a sentence at a time. This can be done by verbally or written. You could have a big sheet up, or whiteboard in the kitchen, for all family members to add to. Your rule could be that the person who writes the 20th line, for example, must finish the story.
- If children want/need something, have them submit it to you as a formal, written request, eg, new trainers/ a cinema trip etc.
- Make mini- books: joke journal, dream journal, bucket list, silly alliterative sentences- (eg Paul's pink penguins plodded peacefully into the pool) etc.
- Play the Sentence Change-Up Game: This game helps your child how one word can change a sentence. The first player writes a sentence, such as "A girl sat on the couch eating chips." The next player has to write a sentence that only changes one word. For example, "A girl sat on the *floor* eating chips." The player after that might change it to "A *monkey* sat on the floor eating chips." Keep going back and forth until the finished sentence is completely different from the one you started with.

Ideas for Maths:

These web sites have some fantastic ideas for Maths activities involving everyday life:

<http://nzmaths.co.nz/maths-our-house>

<http://mathsgogogo.co.uk/Media/src/Mathematics%20at%20Home.pdf>

- Motivate your children in maths by challenging them to work out how much change you should get back from a purchase. If they get the amount right, they get to keep the change!
- When driving, play games with car number plates, eg, first one to add the numbers on 3 consecutive cars.
- Child can keep an accounts book: work out pocket money, or money earned for chores, IOUs, money spent etc. Budget for a new toy.
- Measure out ingredients for cooking/ work out amounts needed for half/double the quantity.
- Let your child help measure up for new carpets, wallpaper or furniture
- Add up/subtract/multiply/divide house numbers
- Ask your child to read bus/train timetables and help plan a journey. They could use maps to find distances for car journeys, and work out arrival time.