Homework Workshop

Ways to make homework engaging and exciting for children.

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Home is Where the Start is!!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD...
IT TAKES A WHOLE SCHOOL TO OPTIMISE LANGUAGE GROWTH.

0 Parents are our first and MOST important teachers.

0 You know your child better than anyone else.

0 Parenting sets the stage for life.

0 We are all learners for life!!

(Chandler, B. Talaris Research Institute, 2005)
Session Outcomes

- Understand the Importance of Homework
- Year Level Expectations and Strategies
- Opportunity to brainstorm and problem solve together
- The role you play in homework
- Develop a home plan
Your Issues

0 For the next few minutes use the post it notes on your table to write down specific queries / areas / times you have trouble getting your child to do their homework.

0 We will put them up on the board and hopefully we would have addressed them by the end of the session.
The Benefits of Homework.

- To consolidate skills taught at school.
- Revise & reinforce concepts covered.
- To extend on work that has been taught in school.
- To support the development of self-discipline, time management, organizational, concentration skills and self-responsibility.
0 Allows you to see how your child is progressing in different areas.

0 Acts as a form of communication & partnership between school and home.

0 Supports your child in becoming an independent learner.
Parents everywhere would love the magic formula to encourage children to do their homework!

However the reality is that at times children may not like doing their homework.
Homework Issues!
Year Level Expectations
Kindergarten Expectations

0 Semantic Theme Guide

0 Practise narratives (story telling script)

0 News Programme

0 A sound book and sound letter activities based on The Jolly Phonics Programme
Pre Primary Expectations

- Reading (segmenting and blending skills)
- Sight Words
- Sound Letter Knowledge
- Semantic Theme Guide
Year 1 Expectations

Literacy

0 Recognize, write and manipulate digraphs and blends.

0 Recognize, read and write high frequency words. (Up to the end of set 12)

0 Accurately spell words with regular spelling patterns, e.g. rain and day

0 Write simple and complex sentences.
Read with fluency and understanding—using punctuation and recalling key ideas.

Create short texts using different genres (persuasive, retells, recounts, postcards, instructions).

Edit own work.
NUMERACY

0 Recognise, read write and order numbers to at least 100

0 Describe number patterns formed by skip counting and using objects.

0 Addition and subtraction of simple problems.

0 Telling the time to the half hour

0 Recognise and classify 2D shapes and 3D objects.

0 Recognise coins according to their value.
Use everyday objects for numeracy.....

1 + 1 = 2

5,892,643

millions → hundred thousands → ten thousands → thousands → hundreds → tens → ones

[Image of measuring cups and a worksheet]
The Importance of Book Reading

“Reading books to children at home has been linked to early literacy and to school success”

(Bus, Van Ijzendoom, & Pellrini, 1995; Scarborough & Dobrich, 1994)
There is more to book reading than simply reading aloud the words in a book!!
What are the benefits of reading levelled readers on a daily basis?
The Benefits of Reading

- Teaching skills and facts relevant to early literacy
- Exploring imaginary worlds
- Developing expressive and receptive language
- Quiet time
0 Build reading fluency

0 Enhance & support high comprehension

0 Ensure reading success = building confidence

0 Promote children viewing themselves as “readers”
3 Kinds of Readers

0 Those who are good at reading and love to read.

0 Those who are good at reading, but “don’t like” to read.

0 Those who struggle with reading and do not like to read.
Things you can do at home to engage RELUCTANT readers!!

0 Be ANIMATED
    Vary intonation, use facial expressions, different voices for characters, pauses.....

0 Use gestures and point
    It aids comprehension

0 Make connections to other areas in your lives
    Through character personalities/problems

0 I read one page, you read one page and so on....

0 BE A READER YOURSELF
    Modelling, shared understanding, enjoyment!!

0 Your turn to be the teacher!!!
    Can you spot the mistake mum or dad makes?

0 REFER TO YOUR BOOKMARK!!!
What could Annie say to her brother? (3)

How does Annie feel? (3)

Look at the cushions. How are they different? (2)

What colour is this? (1)
Making It Fun

There are many ways to make homework fun.

Let’s get creative...
Sight Words & Sound / Letter
Bowling for Sight Words

coffee cups and crayons.com
SIGHT WORD HUNT
Write your short i words. Use a Skittle for the dot on your i's.

skittle sit pet mitten win pin
up chip hop to in flip
Everyday objects.....
Spot, what are you taking with you?

This word says Spot. Spot’s name starts with a /s/ sound. This is the letter s. /ss/ is the first sound in Spot.
Reading

1. Change of Venue
2. Secret Places
3. Puppets and Props
4. Phone Fun
Dot had a dog. The dog is Mag. Mag got the bag. Dot got Mag.

Dot sat. Did Mag sit? Mag sat on the bag.

Reading Blocks
Visual Schedules

- sound time: Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff
- read
- maths: $\frac{2}{3}$
- free play

Example used at LDC
1. Letter/sounds

2. Reading

3. Dinner

4. Writing

Example done in Word
Paper based examples
Achievement Charts and Rewards

Can you read 5 books?
Let’s come up with a snappy new name for homework!!

Home learning

Study

Brain Boosting

Stuff we do at home previously known as Homework

MINDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Other ideas....

- Environment
- Remove distractions
- Timing
- Different people and places
- Interactive books
- Make your own books
- Alternatives to books
- Be persistent!
Web sites & Apps

- **http://www.starfall.com** – phonics and beginning reading through to more capable readers

- **http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk** – all areas, not age specific

- **http://mrnussbaum.com** – all areas, all ages

- **http://www.cookie.com** – all areas (K-3)

- **http://www.primaryinteractive.co.uk** – all areas

- **http://www.crickweb.co.uk** – all areas

- **http://www.uen.org/k-2interactivess** - all areas (K-2)
Parents’ role for set homework...

0 Be a facilitator rather than a force to be reckoned with.

0 Ensure that your child has everything needed to do homework.

0 Encourage your child to talk about interesting facts they have learned while doing their homework.

0 Discuss homework with your child in a positive manner.
Empower your child.

Encourage your child to complete the homework, working independently if appropriate.

Find out if there are specific areas of homework they're having difficulties with.

Let your child know what needs to be completed before they start – Visual timetables work well.

Let your child choose what homework they do first.
0 Create a positive environment where it is just you and your child (no siblings or distractions).

0 Use praise to achieve intrinsic motivation.

0 Reward homework.

0 Be engaged.

0 Shift the responsibility from you to your child.
- Turn off the TV when it is within hearing distance of a child doing homework.

- Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

- Talk to your child’s teacher if you feel their homework load is unreasonable.
Stay informed.
Talk to your child's teacher.
WARNING
EMERGING READER!
HANDLE WITH CARE
Stop. Re-read this line correctly.

Speed up or... Slow down

You know this!

You're wrong. That says, [insert word].

laughing (at a mistake)
Sharing Session

1. Choose an aspect of homework your child currently battles with.

2. Identify the strategies you will use to help your child in this area. (e.g. reduce the time you spend on homework).
Bringing it together...
References

Original source of article: Howcast, How to Get Your Kids to Do Their Homework,