

## Supporting Learning at Home

**Promotes** an active partnership between you, your child and your child's teacher.

**Provides** review and practice opportunities to strengthen reading, writing and arithmetic.

**Strengthens** important life-long skills and attitudes such as:

organization  
time management  
problem solving  
resourcefulness  
self-reliance  
responsibility  
perseverance  
co-operation  
independence



### Setting It Up For Success

**Space:** Involve your child in setting up a work area that is viewed as special and important by the whole family. A desk or table away from the bustle of family life is best. Encourage your child to develop the habit of placing home assignments in a designated spot when they come home from school and again when assignments are ready to return to school. Work towards having your child assume responsibility for this process themselves.

**Time:** Discuss a homework time that works best for you and your child and fits in with the family schedule to avoid interruptions. Involve your child in determining a **best** time by using prompts such as: *I can help you with your homework right after school or after dinner. What works best for you?* Try to keep to the agreed upon time.

**Supplies:** Keep supplies such as papers, books, pencils, erasers, crayons and felt pens organized and ready for use. This avoids delays when starting to work.

**Remember:** Doing homework **with** your child does not mean doing homework **for** your child. One approach is to do one sample as your child follows along, then do one or more samples together and then have your child complete the rest of the task independently.

## More Tips for Supporting Learning at Home

- **Start the homework habit early.** Even before your child starts bringing home school assignments, set aside a special time for activities such as games and baking that involve reading, adding and measuring.
- **Before starting ask.** Is my child hungry or thirsty? Has there been an opportunity to play, relax, exercise and get some fresh air? Has there been a bathroom break?
- **Build on success.** Begin with 10 to 15 minutes of work time and gradually build up to what your child is comfortable with.
- **Praise honestly and specifically.** Use prompts such as: *I enjoyed working with you today because I could see you were giving it your best effort. Even when it was difficult you kept trying. By working together we were able to get it done.* This helps to build a positive self-image, improve self-esteem and develop a confident attitude. Occasionally extra play, screen and game time can also be used for motivation.
- **Review finished assignments using prompts such as:** *Does it look right? Does it sound right?* These questions work well in catching errors.
- **When specific work isn't sent home consider alternatives to keep the homework routine going:** family reading time; writing activities (lists, notes, emails to friends and family); investigating a topic of interest, reviewing completed worksheets and newsletters from school; visiting public libraries or museums; making a word bank of spelling words to learn; or using activity books that are fun and interesting for your child. Access [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org) and [readwritethink.org](http://readwritethink.org) for resources to use at home.
- **When things don't go well, be your child's mentor, advisor and encourager.** Ask your child: *How do you think we can make this better?* Discuss possible solutions and guide your child to make a choice. See how things work out and be prepared to try again. The long term goal is to help children become independent at making good choices and solving problems.
- **Keep communication between you, your child and the teacher positive.**

