

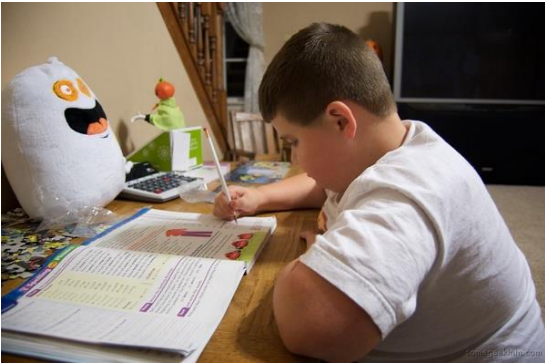
# Supporting learning at home



## How you can support your child's learning at home

Homework	Learning Difficulty
Reading	Numeracy
Writing	Wellbeing

# HOMEWORK



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Ensure your child has a comfortable space to get homework and study done; chair, light, paper & pens, quiet.

Have expectations, rewards and consequences that you agree to as a family and follow through.

## Diary

Support your child to keep a diary (this could be a paper-based or electronic format) so they can keep track of due dates. Help your child to break tasks down into mini-tasks so they can get bigger tasks completed in time, stress-free.

## Study groups

Some children study more effectively when they are in a small group. You could host your child's friends for a homework session each week, or just host them when they are working on a shared topic.

## Flash cards

Make flash-cards for the new vocabulary that your child is learning in each subject (find words from their file).

## Marking criteria

Every take-home assignment will have marking criteria provided to your child. Go through it explicitly with your child and tick off the criteria you can both see in their work.

## Summarise

Ask your child to summarise what it is they learnt at school for each subject that day or week. This could be in writing or in conversation.

## Reflecting on learning

Ask your child what they are finding difficult or easy in particular subjects to help focus discussions.

## Repeat, revisit, reinforce

It takes repetition to learn new things... pop quiz your child on what they've learnt earlier in the year by scouring through their files and books (electronic or paper).

# READING



"Getting Ready for 'Harry Potter July'" by Noël Zia Lee is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Encourage your child to read every day. Even if just for 10 minutes. This should be uninterrupted time.

Ask a question or two afterwards for your child to respond to... "What did you like?" "How did it make you feel?" "What does it make you wonder?"

Model reading yourself as well.

## Read to learn something new

Read something online together with your child; look to learn something new about a shared interest. Or try to find the answer to a question one of you has (perhaps this could be based on the topics they're learning at school).

## Watch the news or a TV show together

And then talk about what you watched. What did you think? What did you feel? What didn't you understand?

## Go to the library together (or browse for e-books)

It helps to show the value of reading for both pleasure and for purpose.

## Shared reading strategies to help struggling readers:

### Echo read:

You read a sentence or paragraph and then your child repeats it back to you.

### Shared read:

Take turns reading a sentence or paragraph each (don't correct your child as they read... they will pick up on their mistakes as they listen when it's your turn).

### Neurological Impress Method:

Have your child follow along with you as you read aloud, tracking the words with your finger as you go.

**Paired read:** Read together in sync. This is tricky, but is the best method for children who ignore punctuation, read too fast or too slow, or have a monotone (no expression). They will start to mimic you when you model all of these things correctly.

# WRITING & SPELLING



"Girl writing" by ZaCky is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Provide your child with opportunities to write; shopping lists, leaving notes, replying to emails etc.

Play spelling games with your child or have them download some apps on their device to play, and join in yourself.

## Unusual words

Point these out when you see them; note the unusual spelling pattern or find out what language the word originates from.

## Journalling

Gift your child a fresh journal or book to write in for pleasure. Many people find noting down what they are grateful for can also enhance their wellbeing.

## Shared stories

Write stories over time where each member of the household writes a paragraph and then hands it on to the next member until it is finished... these stories may never end!

## Recommended programs for intervention

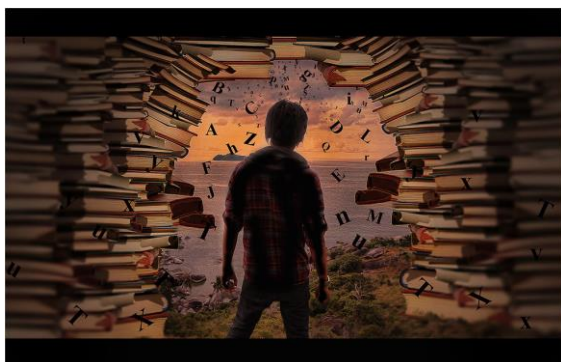
Go to: [dsf.net.au/families/how-can-families-support-children/educational-support](https://dsf.net.au/families/how-can-families-support-children/educational-support) for recommended programs to support your child if they need more targeted intervention.

**Websites & software that support reading development:** [readtheory.org](https://readtheory.org) is good for short daily texts that support students to comprehend successfully. This is a free website and could be a good option if your child prefers to read short or non-fiction texts.

<https://www.literacyplanet.com/> is a paid subscription that has reading, spelling, punctuation & grammar lessons that a child 'tests' into at the start before progressing at their own pace. Levels are available from Years 6-10.

<https://readingeggspress.com.au/> another paid subscription that has reading, spelling, punctuation & grammar lessons that a child 'tests' into at the start before progressing at their own pace. However, the levels available are from Foundation – Year 7 (more suitable for students who are really struggling in these areas).

# LEARNING DIFFICULTIES



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Talk to your child's Year Coordinator or the Differentiation Coordinator if you have concerns about your child's progress.

Talk with your child's teacher if you find your child can't do the work that has been set for them.

## Adjust homework

Read the questions aloud to your child and/or rewrite the questions in a simpler way to help them engage.

## Break tasks down

Break homework or tasks down into smaller steps so your child is not so overwhelmed. Check on progress and 'tick off' the steps as they get completed.

## E-books

Ask teachers if there are E-book versions of texts so that your child can access text-speech and modified work.

## I do – we do – you do

Model answering a question or completing a task to your child. Then attempt another related question or task together. Then let your child attempt the next question or task by themselves before then giving them some feedback.

## Praise

Provide lots of encouragement and positive reinforcement when your child attempts something difficult; even if they don't get it right the first time, keep reminding them that perseverance is a virtue!

## Rest

If your child has a learning difficulty, just being at school all day trying their best can take a lot more effort than for other students... remember that your child may need respite from homework as well.

## Accessibility options

Modern devices (tablets, phones & laptops) all have fantastic tools to make writing and reading easier; dictation, readers, spell & grammar checkers, predictive text etc. Teach your child to use these or ask for a workshop session for you and your child with the Differentiation Coordinator to learn how to use them!

# NUMERACY



There are lots of opportunities to show how our everyday lives are full of numeracy!

Always try to explain the relevance of maths to everyday activities. Students who understand how/why maths is used, will value it more.

## The weather

Explore <http://www.bom.gov.au> together. Look at rainfall and temperature patterns over the year in different locations. Investigate synoptic charts and what they mean.

## Recipes

Double or halve recipes and have your child do this maths. Estimate the cost of ingredients for a dish and then get your child to do the shopping.

## Catalogues

How much would items be if there were a 50% or 25% or 30% off sale? How many things can you buy for a set price?

## Travel

Work out how to get somewhere quickest by plane or bus, looking at timetables. Talk about km/hr and how long it will take you to get to a location as you are travelling.

## Money

Involve your child in budgeting for holidays or household expenses. Talk about interest and other banking terms. Look at other mobile phone/broadband plans and determine which is the best value for money.

## Construction

Discuss need for knowledge of angles and measurement... involve your child in simple renovating tasks that require these skills.

## At home learning packages

The Department of Education has learning packages at: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home/learning-resources-by-year-level?redirect=%2Flearning-at-home>. Just filter by year level & for Maths.



# WELLBEING

Don't forget about your wellbeing either...

What is something you feel grateful for today?

Connect with someone you care about by writing them an email.

Do you want some support with: sleep, coping, bullying, sadness, stress, setting goals, communication skills, school & study?

Try: <https://au.reachout.com/> or talk to your supervisor, parents or make an appointment at Student Services.



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