



Top tips for family learning



Learning together as a family has a tremendously positive impact on your child's engagement and attitude to education. It can be difficult for all parents to find the time, to know where to start and to get their child excited, or even cooperative, about family learning. On our website we have created some ideas for short, easy games and activities, for you to try at home.

Each activity is designed to teach your child about the value and nature of money, earning, saving and spending.

Here are some top tips to help you support your child to learn at home.

Keep it positive

The most important lesson we can teach at home, is to find value and enjoyment in learning itself. Avoid criticism and focus on acknowledging success, in order to keep a positive tone throughout.

During crucial development stages, it is far more important to encourage positivity and promote confidence. Positivity gives young people the motivation to try and confidence gives them the ability to find their strengths.

Set the context

Simply take a few minutes before a learning task or activity for a two-way conversation about the value of the lesson, with examples of instances where the knowledge or skill would be valuable. Even if the value is simply learning to learn or trying new things to explore their talents, context helps your child to agree the importance.

Accept different learning styles

Although children share many qualities with their parents, we are each unique. We communicate, interpret and learn just as uniquely. In a school environment, it is impossible to give the level of individualised approach that we can create at home. At home we can give a child space to explore and experiment with approaches that work for them. For example, some children like detailed explanations, some need shorter, snappier content, some are very visual, some benefit from a physical element, some read better from screens, some from paper. Through the activities suggested in our learning materials, you may start to discover effective approaches that you can apply to supporting their schoolwork in the future. Remember, what works for you, doesn't necessarily work for them. Try to observe and facilitate rather than lead the activities.

Share success

When your child has participated in a task or activity, you can reinforce that positive attitude by supporting and encouraging them to share their success. Try not to set expectations of what you consider to be a 'successful outcome' instead rewarding their engagement in the task. You can do this with a reward or points scheme at home, sharing their work on social media (when safe to do so) or encourage them to take their work to school to show their teacher.

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Be flexible - change the plan

Taking into consideration the different learning styles and remembering that we all have bad days, we need to be willing to adapt or abandon our plan instead of creating a negative learning experience. If the activity simply isn't working, try something else or take a break and try again later.

You may find that your child has been taught particular methods that differ from your school experience. It can be really difficult to teach your child long multiplication, for example, in a way you don't fully understand. If they have a particular method they are using, it is best not to confuse or contradict and instead, let them teach you. If the method isn't clear, drop the school an email and ask for some links or resources.

Share experiences

There are learning opportunities everywhere. Think of all the skills your child has learned outside of school, just by observing and helping at home. Include your child in some of your daily tasks and encourage discussion. For example, you could ask your children to help with the weekly shop by writing shopping lists or comparing brands and prices in the supermarket.

Be patient

It's a simple idea but can be difficult, at times. Many of the tips above require patience and self-control and it can be challenging to sit and watch your child choose an approach that you don't think will work. Your child needs to explore and learn in their own way, and they often surprise us with their innovation.

Celebrate yourself

Give yourself a pat on the back for your efforts. It takes time, energy and practice for effective family learning and, in the busy, modern world, it is often difficult to find that time and energy. Every learning experience that you share with your child, is a victory and should be celebrated. Even when things don't go to plan, your efforts are never in vain. Take the time to congratulate yourself, just as you do your child.

Safety First! It's important to ensure that you undertake the suggested activities safely, taking into consideration the environment that you are in and the behaviours of your individual child. As we are unable to undertake an individualised risk assessment, you may need to tailor the activities suggested so that they can be safely enjoyed. Take particular care when your child is using the internet, ensuring that they are only visiting reputable and appropriate websites

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