

Tips and ideas to support successful home-schooling

The team at Jennett’s Park CE Community Primary School have put together some tips and ideas to help make the most out of home-school. We know home-schooling has been a new and sometimes challenging experience and we want to share some of our ideas with you.

Before you start / planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t be overwhelmed by what’s on See Saw! There is often a lot of tasks and information but there is no requirement to complete it all! • Consider your child’s attention and concentration abilities and their ability to access learning tasks independently. Some tasks will require more parental support than others, so make sure you plan those tasks that require your time in when you are available to support your child. Ensure that your child also has a number of activities that they can readily access independently to give you all some ‘down time’ and to allow you to do other things. • Set a time limit for each activity and provide 5-10 minutes between each activity for a break / snack. If it helps, write this onto a piece of paper / draw a clock to show where the hands will be at the beginning / end. If your child prefers, draw or write a symbol to show what break / snack activity will be at the end of the time. • For some creating a time table may also help both of you to break down your day/s and help your child set their targets too. • Depending on the task, it may be necessary to pick out specific parts of an activity to focus on within the time rather than the whole planned activity. If necessary, adapt it to make it more practical and / or visual.
Managing the learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, try to make a learning ‘zone’ that’s away from distractions or, if necessary, try to screen possible distractions while home school is commencing (by putting a sheet or blanket over anything that might distract). Also, ensure home-school activities are put away at the end of the daily session! • Ensure all teaching and learning materials and resources are available before you start. • Provide a range of ‘holding tasks’ or activities (LEGO, puzzles, books, drawing materials) that your child can readily and independently access should they finish early or get ‘stuck’ and not be able to get help or support at that time.
Starting the task or activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the whole part of the task and state what the end point is / what will be achieved. • Read aloud and repeat instructions and, if possible, print or write these out as you do so. Encourage your child to repeat them back for themselves. • State the task expectations (realistic) and what you expect your child to achieve within the time set. • Check your child’s level of confidence in attempting the task with a thumbs up / down signal or scaling from 1-5 or ‘hard’ – ‘easy’. • If necessary ‘chunk’ the instructions and the task into smaller or single steps and provide time for your child to complete each step before moving onto the next. • If your child is expected to undertake the task independently remind them of the holding activities that they can access if they get stuck or finish early.
Finishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a 5-minute count-down prior to the task time ending. Stop when the time ends. • Praise your child for having attempted / completed the task / activity. • Ask them about their confidence and the experience of it and how well they think they’ve done. – Again; thumbs up / down, scaling of 1-5 or ‘hard’ – ‘easy’. If this was done at the beginning; compare the confidence levels. • Ensure your child gets the break / snack originally agreed. • Share how task went with class teacher on Tapestry or Seesaw so if necessary further support on that task can be given to your child.

Remember this is all new to all of us including your child. If a task become a conflict don’t keep revisiting it with your child contact school and let us know. We can then look at ways to support your child to achieve the task. Just move onto something that your child is comfortable to do – if this is bbc bitsize or another work source then just let school know.

The work being set is a guide don’t try to get your child to complete it all in one day. If your child is not happy they will not learn so pushing too hard without any fun may block learning.