

Over arching support from parents completing work with children

Parents can play a key role supporting their children when completing activities. Here are some ways you can actively support your child.

1. Create space

Set up a space for your child to do their homework.

While making this space in their bedroom is sometimes the easiest option, this automatically makes work a solitary activity.

If there is an option for a space in a communal area of the house this helps promote discussions and it is easier to get involved without it feeling like an intrusion.

Wherever the space, give the learner some ownership over it and make it an inviting space to spend time in. New stationery, a comfy chair and good lighting will also help.

2. Make it positive

Make parental input a positive thing.

My dad used to check my work with a red pen; neither positive nor encouraging!

If your child has a question about their work, help them, but try not to tell them the answer. Use questioning to help them get as close to the answer as they can. Starting these practices in younger years will mean that when homework becomes a bigger part of their learning outside of school, your child is comfortable discussing it with you and values your input.

3. Let them make mistakes

It's OK for answers to be wrong.

Telling your child the right answer and getting them to just write it down means that the teacher is none the wiser about which bits they are struggling with and which they excel at.

Help but not too much and leave the mistakes as they are for a teacher to see. Any errors are very revealing and this helps teachers adjust their teaching to address these issues.

4. Be realistic

Give them time to complete work set.

While it is tempting to book the whole day full of work activities, children need some downtime.

Allowing them some space in the family schedule means they will be able to start allocating their own time and gives them plenty of time to complete the work set. This will allow more time for discussion, greater conversation between family members and the learner, and an altogether calmer approach.

5. Don't worry if you are unsure how to do the work yourself, or worry that they way you were taught it was different

Many parents worry that they are not up to date with teaching strategies as these have changed over the years. If you are unsure and your child is unsure; look online or see if the teacher has given guidance in a crib sheet. If not, have a go at working it out with your child, but do not get hung up on it. Sometimes, children benefit from realising that adults don't always have the answer. It can wait.