

# Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

## Benefits of Working with Children at Home

- It promotes an active partnership between you, your child and your child's teacher.
- It provides opportunities to support what your child is learning at school.
- It strengthens important life-long skills and attitudes such as: organization, time management, problem solving, resourcefulness, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance, cooperation and independence.

## Setting It Up for Success

- Involve your child in setting up a work area that is viewed as a special place. A desk or table away from the bustle of family life is best. Encourage your child to develop the habit of placing assignments in a designated spot as soon as they come home from school and again when assignments are completed. Work towards having your child assume responsibility for this routine themselves.



- Discuss a 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 saying things such as: *I can help you right after school or after dinner. What works best for you?* Keep to the agreed upon time.
- Have supplies such as paper, books, pencils, erasers, crayons and felt pens organized and ready for use. This avoids delays when starting to work.



© Partners in Learning

Visit our website: [www.readwritewithkids.com](http://www.readwritewithkids.com) for free downloads and information or contact us at [learningtoread@telus.net](mailto:learningtoread@telus.net) Educators are welcome to share this publication with their parent populations.

## More Tips for Supporting Learning at Home

- **Start the 'homework' habit early.** Even before your child starts bringing home school assignments, set aside designated times for activities that involve reading, writing and working with numbers and measurement.
- **Before starting to work with your child ask yourself:** Is my child hungry or thirsty? Has there been an opportunity for my child to play, relax, exercise and get some fresh air? Does my child need a bathroom break?
- **Build on success.** Begin with 10 to 15 minutes of work and gradually increase the time. Better to quit too soon than too late. Extra play/screen/game time or a treat can also be used for motivation.
- **Praise honestly and specifically.** The following prompts develop a confident and independent attitude. *Thanks for giving it your best effort. I enjoyed working with you today. Even when it was difficult you kept trying and by working together we were able to get it done.*
- **Review finished assignments using comments such as:** *Does it look right? Does it sound right?* These questions help develop important self-correcting skills.
- **When specific work isn't sent home consider alternatives to keep the routine going:** family reading time; writing activities (lists, notes, emails to friends and family); investigating a topic of interest; visiting public libraries or museums; making a word bank of spelling words to learn; and/or activities that involve number work. Explore [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org) and [www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org) for age appropriate and interesting ideas.
- **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 your child become independent at making good choices and solving problems.
- **Keep communication between you, your child, and the teacher positive.** Most schools use planners to help with this.



© Partners in Learning

Visit our website: [www.readwritewithkids.com](http://www.readwritewithkids.com) for free downloads and information or contact us at [learningtoread@telus.net](mailto:learningtoread@telus.net) Educators are welcome to share this publication with their parent populations.