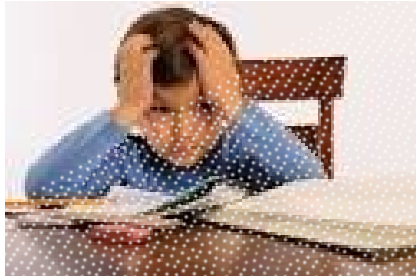




This NEPS Handout has been developed by educational psychologists and is based on current knowledge in this area. It is intended as a guide only. Not all the advice here may apply to any one student or situation. Teachers and parents may wish to identify the strategies that will work best for them.



Homework Tips for Parents of Primary School Children

- Make sure the child is not hungry or very tired when starting on homework. Provide a snack and or rest before expecting the child to start homework.
- Have a specific time and place for homework. Stick to this routine consistently and explain it to the child. If necessary, use the clock to show how long the homework will take. The setting should be quiet. TV/Playstation etc should be switched off. Ensure your child has all the necessary books and equipment before beginning.
- Try and remain calm and positive with your child.
- Praise and encourage your child throughout the homework session.
- For children with attention/reading difficulties, consider breaking homework into chunks with brief movement breaks.
- Have a pre-written alphabet and number line (on card) and if necessary attach it to the table. Provide counters/money for maths work where necessary.
- For writing exercises, if child is becoming frustrated write the beginning of the sentence and encourage him/her to finish, or write some words and encourage him/her to fill in the blanks.
- If your child is struggling to read a sentence, give them the word and move on.
- Keep the teacher informed of difficulties that your child may be having with homework, particularly if the homework seems to take a long time or if the child often has difficulty in a particular subject area.