

HOMEWORK – how much should children have?

We believe homework is something for us to work at together. We have to decide what we want our children to gain by doing homework. Some homework is important for the development of our child's personal work and study habits, but too much can be counterproductive. We believe that homework falls into 4 main categories – everyday, service, healthy lifestyle and 'thinking outside the box'.

Everyday homework such as spending time with our children listening to them read to us or us reading to them and then talking about the story, is one of the most valuable things we can do with our children. This simple task helps our children develop language, improves their vocabulary, encourages them to form opinions about what they read and lets them ask questions about parts of the story they do not understand. They can read picture books, chapter books, news articles, comics or magazines etc. Other everyday homework choices include card games like '24', Uno, Memory addition or Subtraction War, which are a great way to involve maths in a fun way and the whole family can play together.

Service, healthy lifestyle and 'thinking outside the box' homework (optional)

Teaching our children to help others is an important skill that can be practised at home, E.g., helping to cook dinner is a great way to spend time with each other and help your child learn a valuable skill that involves maths, science, language and decision making.

Being active helps us develop strong muscles and healthy hearts and is good for our minds and bodies.

Thinking outside the box and playing board games is another great option that encourages conversation and playing by the rules, learning to take turns, be a good sport and engage in friendly competition.

With this in mind, Whaea Rowan and I have developed a list of suggestions for homework options that you may like to work on with your child.

Everyday homework

- Read together and talk about the story
- Play a maths game using cards or practice your basic facts (+ - x ÷) the old fashioned way by chanting or writing them on a piece of paper.

Extra homework ideas

Service

- Help cook dinner for your family – talk about cooking tips, the recipe.
- Clear the table and do the dishes.
- Fold the washing and put it away.
- Spend time helping a grandparent, younger brother / sister or neighbour.
- Help with the housework (taking out the rubbish, cleaning your room, weeding the garden etc).
- Help with grocery shopping – keep a running total of how much everything costs, help unpack the groceries and put everything away.
- Sweep / vacuum the floors.

Healthy lifestyle

- Walk the family pet
- Play outside with a ball for at least 30 minutes
- Go for a bike ride with your family
- Play tag with a brother / sister / cousin / neighbour
- Dance to your favourite songs
- Go for a swim
- Sports practice (hockey, swimming, gymnastics, dance, athletics, soccer etc.)

Thinking outside the box

- Play a board game like Cluedo, Monopoly, Chess, Checkers, Trivial Pursuit
- Find out more about a news story that interests you
- Create a work of art and share it with your class – sketch, paint, model
- Put on an impromptu play for your family
- Play charades
- Music practice – piano, drums, violin, singing etc.

Homework must fit in with your family commitments and lifestyle. There is an optional chart on the back of this newsletter that you may fill in if you wish to keep track of your child's progress. Together you could put a tick in the relevant columns each time your child completes an activity. If you wanted to remember what your child did each week, you could write a note in the column beside the tick.

Homework: R1 Term 1 2020



Name _____

Week	Everyday Monday - Friday	Service	Healthy Lifestyle	Thinking outside the box
Example	√ √ √ √ √	√ Dried dishes √ Swept kitchen floor	√ Swimming training √ Walked dog	√ Monopoly
1				
2				
3				
4				
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11				