



Some tips for learning at home

Connecting learning at Home and School requires:

- Teachers and parents having an understanding that children 'learn everywhere' and there are important overlaps between home, school and the community.
- Teachers and parents understanding the benefits that come from effective partnerships – for children's learning and outcomes, and for parents and teachers themselves.
- Schools providing opportunities, sometimes in partnership with others, for parental self-growth, adult learning and development of new skills to support children's learning at home.
- Families being informed about and understanding their child's progress and feeling confident to work with teachers in the educational decision-making affecting their child.
- Schools acknowledging, valuing and supporting the home learning that children bring to school.

My to-do list

- take advantage of **every formal and informal meeting or school gathering** as an opportunity to emphasise to parents the importance of their role in their children's learning.
- review the school's 'homework' policy, so 'homework' means not only work done alone, but also **interactive activities shared with others at home or in the community**, linking schoolwork to real life.
- Use school community communication strategies (eg newsletter, website, noticeboards, meetings, assemblies, letters, flyers) to communicate **the value of parental engagement** in their children's education.
- teachers send home easy-to-understand outlines of school learning to be undertaken each term with a clear explanation of what students are expected to learn and **how families can help**.
- schools, in conjunction with community organisations, provide families with **targeted programs to support student's learning at home**. This should include understanding the 'language of schooling', so parents can participate in conversations about learning that happens at school with their child and teacher.
- teachers call, write, email and meet with families **regularly** to share progress and provide specific advice and hear feedback from families on how they can help their children learn.

Adapted from *Partners 4 Learning: A framework to support partnership in Catholic school communities*. Council of Catholic School Parents <www.partners4learning.edu.au> and *Families as partners in learning*. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development <<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/familiesaspartners/default.htm>>



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