

PaWS' Parent Guide



Struggling to complete home learning tasks

The approach to home learning at PaWS has been created to help children to develop fluency skills, consolidate learning and support their progress in class. Children who are not regularly engaged with learning at home are at a disadvantage.

We understand that not all children embrace the opportunities to learn at home and that this can cause friction at home. It is however an expectation that children complete their home learning tasks and this is an expectation that increases as children move onto secondary school. We are not doing our children any favours by not supporting them in making this part of their daily routine.

Consider the suggestions below and be consistent with your approach. Make sure that you give your strategies time to work.

Have you tried the following?

Establish clear expectations with your child. If you struggle to get your child to work on their home learning, resetting the expectations is important so that your child knows that home learning will become a regular part of home life. Have this conversation with your child when things are calm and at a time away from doing any home learning. Tell your child that you are going to try something different starting next week with home learning that it will make it go better for everyone. Then explain the routines that you are putting in place.



Create a calm place for child to complete their home learning. Create a calm space at home away from interruption. Siblings should not be in the next room watching TV or playing video games. For some children completing home learning in their bedrooms might not work. Many children need a parent's presence to stay focused and disciplined. And they need to be away from the things in their rooms that can distract them. The whole idea is to eliminate distractions.

Have a clear routine. Ensure that the routine stays the same can be important and having a regular schedule for the morning/evening can create positive habits. Setting an early evening alarm for 'Doodle o'clock' can help make expectations clear. Be supportive and avoid arguments.

Ensure your child understands the value you put in home learning and prioritise it. Many children are involved in a range of after school activities. It is important to highlight to your child that 'home learning comes first'. At PaWS we have intentionally chosen home learning practices which allow for home learning to be completed in short bursts with a 'little but often' mantra and can be worked around other activities. There is absolutely no excuse for this not to be achievable by all children.



Review the difficulty of tasks. Home learning at PaWS has been designed to be well-matched to your child's ability. Children finding learning too hard or too easy can become easily disengaged. If this is a concern, please discuss with your child's teacher. On DoodleMaths and DoodleSpell, children can retake their baseline assessment allowing your child to reset the level of the questions. If you feel that the books your child is reading are too easy, it is possible that that, while fluent, they are less confident in retelling and comprehending what they have read. A guide for supporting with reading at home can be found here:

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/learning/reading-and-phonics/>

Provide praise and rewards. If your child struggles to engage in home learning, you can work on motivation by using a reward system. Use positive praise and reward with your child and make sure you notice any efforts they're making. The DoodleMaths and DoodleSpell packages have been selected as they have a range of inbuilt rewards. You should stress the successes your child is having with their learning as success breeds success and is its own reward.

Be a role model. Children look to emulate their parents. Setting aside time to read yourself or complete home admin tasks alongside your child can help them to recognise the value of working at home and support them in developing an important life skills.

Set limits and hold your child accountable. Is not completing home learning the only time your child resists your instructions or is this a regular situation? You may need to reassert firm limits and create a culture of accountability at home. Avoid arguments, calmly enforce any consequences and offer to help them learn to solve the problem of getting their home learning tasks completed.

Discuss your concerns with the school. If the suggestions above have not been successful and concerns are ongoing, please contact your child's class teacher. They are likely to talk to your child about the barriers they might be facing to complete home learning and look for solutions to remove them. They might introduce rewards and or offer additional praise to provide further motivation.



Find out more:

Empowering Parents:

<https://www.empoweringparents.com/article/child-refuses-to-do-homework/>

Parentkind:

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/home-and-school/supporting-learning-at-home>

PaWS' home learning policy:

<https://pevenseschool.org.uk/statutory-info/policies/>