

For Parents/Carers

Working Together!

Aged 5+



As a parent/carer, you have the skills needed to support and encourage your child to learn, achieve and get the best out of their school experience.

Online as part of this pack you will find:

- ★ a **chatterbox** to make – full of activities!
- ★ a **card game** with ideas and questions to ask your children about school and what they are learning
- ★ a **bookmark** for your child to colour in and keep
- ★ a handy **wallchart** and stickers to help you record and reward your child's learning progress month by month

Top Tips

- ★ Check for information about your child's progress in your child's homework diary or exercise book
- ★ Encourage your child to give it a go even if it seems difficult
- ★ Provide a comfortable space to talk and work
- ★ Do exercises in little steps – a bit at a time
- ★ Ask other family members to help and encourage your child to learn
- ★ Make learning fun, play games and laugh at your mistakes!
- ★ Show you are interested and ask questions

★ Celebrating Achievement ★

It's always a good idea to reward your child's progress (e.g. getting their homework done on time), and it doesn't have to cost lots of money! You could...

- ★ let your child pick what film you're going to watch as a family
- ★ let them play their favourite game
- ★ make special time to have fun together

Useful Websites

For more advice and information visit:

- ★ www.bbc.co.uk/learning
- ★ www.bbc.co.uk/schools
- ★ www.channel4learning.com
- ★ www.dads-space.com
- ★ www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum
- ★ www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning
- ★ www.direct.gov.uk/kids
- ★ www.fostering.org.uk
- ★ www.netmums.com
- ★ www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/At-Home
- ★ www.parentchannel.tv
- ★ www.parentlineplus.org.uk

This is by no means an exhaustive list and has been produced to offer a flavour of the types of resources available.

Your school may have other resources available for you to use, or you could get them from their website. (DCSF cannot be held responsible for any existing or future content on any of the above websites.)

**You can also get information from your local library
or why not talk to other parents, friends and family about
helping your child with their learning.**

To print off copies of this document
and other resources please visit:
www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport

Let's Talk About School Today...



Questions you can use to talk to your children about school and their learning

What's this about?

These cards are to help you talk to your children about school and their learning. So ask your child to pick a card, read out the question and get talking!

Card Instructions: Print these cards out on your printer, cut them out (you will have 24 cards) and then get talking!

What was most fun at school today?

What made you laugh today?

What is your favourite thing to do at home?

Tell me something about your favourite animal

Cut along dotted line

What's your favourite thing about school?

Is there anything you don't understand at school? What is it?

Have you helped someone recently? What did you do?

What games did you play today?

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

What's hard for you at school at the moment?

Describe something you've eaten today at school

Tell me about one thing you have done at school today that you feel proud of

What has made you sad recently?

If you had a wish, what would it be?

Talking Together



Why is talking important?

- Your child will enjoy sharing their ideas, thoughts and views with you
- It helps to bring any worries, fears or concerns your child may have out into the open

Asking the right questions



Why are they important?

- Ask questions that lead to conversations
- Avoid questions that lead to a 'yes' or 'no' answer
- Try to find out what school work is about so that you can ask questions that will help your child to solve problems themselves

Make up your own question

Make up your own question

What do you want to be when you are older?

What's easy for you at school at the moment?

Mum/Dad....
WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

Mum/Dad...
WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

1. What happened?

2. Who did you meet?

3. What did you talk about?

WILD CARD

WILD CARD

Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



JANUARY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Remember to give praise



FEBRUARY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Set goals and give rewards



MARCH

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Listen and ask questions



Star Learner

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GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



APRIL

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Find a quiet space for homework



MAY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Be positive about learning



JUNE

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Let them know they are doing well



Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

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GOAL:



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Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



JULY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Remember to give praise



AUGUST

(LEARNING DURING THE HOLIDAYS)

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Set goals and give rewards



SEPTEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Listen and ask questions



Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



OCTOBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Find a quiet space for homework



NOVEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Be positive about learning



DECEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

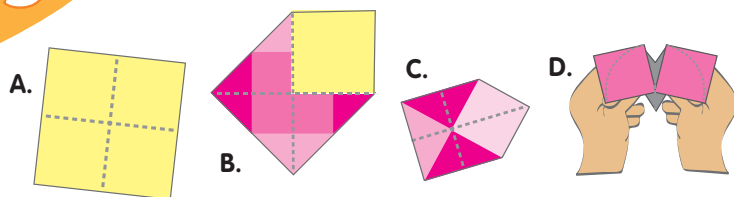
TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Let them know they are doing well



Doing and Learning



How To Make The Chatterbox

- Print off page Two and cut around the dotted line with some scissors. With the blank side facing up, fold Chatterbox in half and unfold. Fold in half the other way and unfold. The fold lines will create four equal squares.
- Fold the 4 corners into the centre to make a smaller square.
- Turn the Chatterbox over and fold the 4 corners of the smaller square into the centre to make a smaller square. There should now be 8 colours pointing to the middle of the Chatterbox.
- Put your thumbs and the first fingers of each hand in the 4 pockets underneath and bring all 4 corners to the middle. The Chatterbox should now look like a square cone with 4 moveable sides: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. You should now be able to move the sides and are ready to play!

How To Use The Chatterbox

Ask your child to pick a number between 1 and 8. Move fingers back and forward as you count out the chosen number. Open up the Chatterbox so that you can see the colours – ask your child to pick a colour from the 4 choices available.

Open the flap to ask your child the question underneath their chosen colour.

You could make your own Chatterbox together using new colours and questions.

To print off copies of this document and other resources please visit:
www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport

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cut along dotted line & keep

GREEN
1
Ask your own question.

ORANGE
3
What TV programme have you watched and enjoyed?...why?

YELLOW
4
What are you looking forward to doing at school this week?

PURPLE
2
Choose 2 things here at home and tell me a story about them.

PINK
6
What is your favourite song? Can you sing it?

QUESTION
What is your favourite subject at school?...why?

HOW? WHY?

CONVERSATION
Aged 5+
Doing and Learning

BROWN
10
What are the names of your friends at school?

CONVERSATION
11
Draw a picture of something you have read about at school.

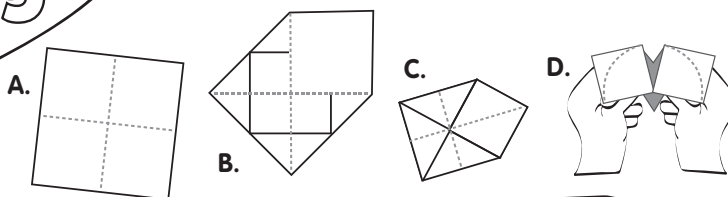
RED
5
What is your favourite song? Can you sing it?

BLUE
7
What is your favourite subject at school?...why?

YELLOW
8
Choose 2 things here at home and tell me a story about them.

YELLOW
9
What are you looking forward to doing at school this week?

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- B. Fold the 4 corners into the centre to make a smaller square.
- C. Turn the Chatterbox over and fold the 4 corners of the smaller square into the centre to make a smaller square. There should now be 8 colours pointing to the middle of the Chatterbox.
- D. Put your thumbs and the first fingers of each hand in the 4 pockets underneath and bring all 4 corners to the middle. The Chatterbox should now look like a square cone with 4 moveable sides: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. You should now be able to move the sides and are ready to play!

How To Use The Chatterbox

Ask your child to pick a number between 1 and 8. Move fingers back and forward as you count out the chosen number. Open up the Chatterbox so that you can see the colours – ask your child to pick a colour from the 4 choices available.

Open the flap to ask your child the question underneath their chosen colour.

cut along dotted line & keep

4 3

ORANGE Write your own question here.

GREEN Write your own question here.

2 1

YELLOW Write your own question here.

PURPLE Write your own question here.

PINK Write your own question here.

BROWN Write your own question here.

5 6

RED Write your own question here.

BLUE Write your own question here.

7 8

Aged 5+ Colour Me In and Add Your Own Questions

Doing and Learning

Why? How?

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Let's read together...bookmark

Let your child choose a book and set time aside to read together.

Ask your child about the book they are reading to start conversations.

fold line

★ Ask your child to tell you something about the book.

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Ask questions about what's happened in the story or ask your child to imagine what might happen next to their favourite character.

cut along dotted line & keep

Instructions to make your bookmark: fold the page in half and stick the blank reverse sides together

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Let's read together...bookmark

Ask your child to colour in this bookmark with their favourite colours

fold line

Reading together lets your child know you are interested in what they are finding out.

cut along dotted line & keep