



# A Parent's Guide to Homework with Dyslexia-Friendly Tips

We believe that children should be able to enjoy the process of homework and be able to share their learning with parents/carers. This booklet gives practical suggestions on how you, as parents/carers, can assist in your child's learning. We hope you find it useful.



## Homework

The main reasons for homework are:

- Practising a new skill.
- Finishing a piece of work started in class.
- Learning for a test.
- Coursework
- Finding out about a new topic.

## Praise

You have a tremendous influence on your child's attitude towards learning. Remind them that everybody is good at something and even though they may find reading and writing difficult, they have other strengths.

Praise lets children know when they are doing the right things in learning to read, write or spell. Praise motivates them to keep on trying. When you praise children it is important to tell them why you are pleased with them, and then they can see for themselves what they are doing is right.

## Spelling

You can practise and play together to improve your child's spelling. Here are some things you can try.:

- Make and Break - write the word on paper. Cut each letter out. Jumble them up to see if you can rebuild the word.
- Use sand, flour, squeeze bottles to write out words.
- Type the word.
- Colour and trace over the word in different colours.
- Say the word slowly as you write it.
- Take one of the words and try to make as many other words with the same sound e.g. sound, found, round, ground.

## More Strategies:

- Analogy - same letter pattern of a known word. E.g. would, could
- Mnemonic - eg. They - Tom Hates Egg Yolks. Said - Sally Ann Is Dancing
- Small words in big words - e.g. 'here' in there
- Pronounce the word as you spell it - e.g. pe-o-ple
- Own cue - the child will remember better if s/he thinks of their own way to remember the word.

## Reading

- Set aside time and a place for reading —minimise distractions.
- When you listen to your child read give plenty of praise.
- Don't rush - let your child turn the pages.
- Provide a wide range of reading materials: comics, magazines etc.
- Make sure the book is not too difficult.
- Look at the title and blurb—discuss what the book might be about.
- Everybody enjoys being read to. If your child is interested in, but can't read a particular book - read it to him or her.
- Discuss the pictures together and what might happen in the story.
- Share the story with your child, reading as little or as much as s/he feels comfortable with.
- Let him/her re-read favourite stories.
- Only correct if the meaning is lost or changed.
- If your child is stuck at a word, leave it out and read onto the end of the sentence. Then have a go at the unknown word using the first letter/picture/rest of sentence to help. If this doesn't work then give the word.
- Recorded stories encourage a love of books. Audio books allow children to listen and understand texts.

## Worries that may Occur

Your child may:

- Frequently lose the place when reading
- re-read words
- omit lines of text.
- Confuse similar letters or words
- Slow grasp of sight vocabulary

How to help:

- Encourage your child to point to each word as they read it
- After reading point to words randomly and check if they can read the word out of context
- Make sure that your child understands the meaning of any difficult words
- Encourage your child to re-tell the story in their own words.

## **Organising and Study**

It is important to understand the difficulties dyslexic children have in the classroom. In addition to reading, writing and spelling, they may find it difficult to remember instructions or organise themselves or their ideas onto a piece of written work. Every child learns differently and not everything will help every child.

### **The three biggest problems with homework are:**

- Getting started.
- Knowing what to do
- Keeping up to date

**Remember** Einstein had very poor spelling, was disorganised and got lost when out walking, but he didn't do too badly!

### **Word processing is very helpful for dyslexic pupils:**

It is easier and quicker to press a key than form a letter.

- Typing looks good throughout and the pupil ends up with a piece of work they can be proud of.
- Print on screen is easier for them to identify mistakes.
- It is easier to edit mistakes.
- Random thoughts and words can be moved and put in order.
- This is also very good for children with severe handwriting difficulties.

You can help your child by encouraging them to find their way round a key board. The spell checking facility can help, but remember these are not designed for dyslexic children.

### **Useful Websites**

<http://www.dyslexiatransition.org>

<http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.countmein.org.uk>

[www.actiondyslexia.co.uk](http://www.actiondyslexia.co.uk)

[www.frameworkforinclusion.org/dyslexiaassessment](http://www.frameworkforinclusion.org/dyslexiaassessment)

*Most importantly if you have any concerns or need any help or support please contact the school.*