

@LYNDHURST



Supporting Learning at Home

Here are our suggestions that will enable you to be an effective member of the Learning Partnership.

Demonstrate a positive attitude about education.

What you say and do in your daily lives can help your child to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in children as learners. Showing your children that you value education contributes to their success in school. Communicate the value of education and the importance of schooling.

Encourage your child to read.

Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help them to succeed in school-and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading is the key to lifelong learning.

Set aside time to read together.

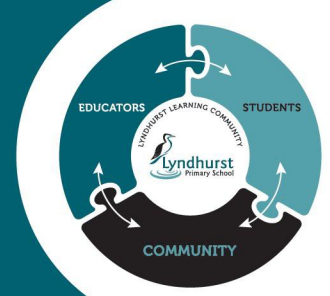
Reading regularly together with your child is the one of the best things you can do to support their learning. Read aloud regularly, even to older children. If your child is a reluctant reader, reading aloud can get them more interested in reading. Let children pick the books they like. Reading at home is about enjoyment. It's OK to read easy, interesting books. Make it enjoyable, not stressful.

Value books in your home

Books, both for the adults and the children in your home, should feature in a prominent place, should be cared for and respected and should be accessed often. Reading your own books is another great way to encourage a positive attitude to reading in your children.

Connect what your child learns to everyday life.

Make learning part of your child's everyday experience. When you cook together, do measuring. When you drive in the car, talk about what you see and where you are going. Have "give-and-take" conversations, listening to their ideas instead of pouring information into their heads.



Try to give feedback rather than criticism.

For example, saying 'that didn't seem to work' rather than 'you got it wrong'. This helps them think about where they went wrong and how they can improve in the future, rather than just feeling like a failure.

Tune into how your child learns.

Many children use a combination of ways to study and learn. Some learn through making and seeing pictures, others through experiences like building block towers and working with clay. Still others pay most attention to what they hear. By paying attention to how your child learns, you may be able to pique their interest in learning.

Practice what your child learns at school.

Regularly ask children what they are learning and doing at school and praise real effort and improvement. We encourage parents to go over what children are learning in a non-pressured way. This doesn't mean drilling them for success, but it may mean going over basic counting skills, multiplication tables or letter recognition, depending on the needs and learning level of your child.

Help your child take charge of their learning.

The research is clear. When children have control over their learning, and have a voice in their learning, they are five times more likely to be engaged. Young children in particular are 85% more likely to learn something when they are interested in it, their friends are interested in it and it is something they have just done. We do this at school by linking their learning to their interests through play-based learning and inquiry. You can do it at home too. Learning is not just for when they are at school.

Encourage your child to use the library.

Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Helping your child find out about libraries, will set him on the road to being an independent learner. Remember that libraries also offer a quiet place for students to complete homework, and are often open in the evening.

Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.

Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establishing reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that they must take responsibility for what they do, both at home and at school, showing your child how to break a job down into small steps, and monitoring what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends.

Most importantly: don't worry.

You don't have to know the technical terms or strategies used in school, encouragement and support is enough. If you're unsure of something or don't know the answer yourself, then explain that to your child and find a way to learn the information together. Search for the information together on the Internet or in a book, or speak with the class teacher about it.
