

Guidance for Creating a Positive Learning Environment at Home



Be realistic about what you can do

- You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household
- Experiment in the first week or two, then take stock. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too
- Share the load if there is more than 1 adult at home. Split the day into 1-2 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- Take care of your own health and wellbeing.
- This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership – it may be easier to stick to your child's school timetable
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible
- If you have more than 1 child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- Start each morning with some exercise like the 9am session with Joe Wicks
- If you have a garden, use it regularly. If you don't, try to get out once a day as permitted by the government.
- Get your children to write in a diary what they did each day – this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

- Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home
- Ask them to help you cook and bake
- Accept that they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits