



Creating a Learning Space in the Home

Why do we need to create a learning space?

Normalises home learning

Children thrive with a routine, and this includes creating a learning space at home. Even if space is tight, a place where children can regularly work and learn is essential to help build security and stability during an unsettling period. So many experiences at home provide opportunities to teach children – even activities like cooking provide the basis to learn about maths and science.

Allows you to reconnect further with your child's learning

Yes this is an unusual situation, but there are some excellent opportunities to reconnect with your child. Giving focused attention to your child, even for a few hours every day, allows you to understand how they are learning. It is also an exciting opportunity to share your knowledge and learning experiences with your children.

Home is a place where learning and play join

Often children are exhausted when they return home from school; however, being at home helps them to understand learning happens everywhere, without boundaries. The most effective learning occurs when students demonstrate their learning by doing or by teaching others. Giving children a chance to share their knowledge, even by taking on the role of teaching you, helps to build their confidence and self-efficacy.

Reinforces that learning is a priority

Providing your child with a designated space for learning gives them ownership over their learning process. It also demonstrates a sense of respect for their knowledge and lets them know that you care about their education. Their independence and comfort at home also help children to build the maturity to take responsibility for their learning, as appropriate.

Provides opportunities to celebrate achievements

Children thrive and, with the right support, rise to expectations, but need recognition and rewards for their accomplishments. Take the opportunity to let children share goals with you and celebrate success using reward charts and certificates.

Children learn from sharing

In families with more than one child, older children can help to teach younger siblings. Technology also allows children to share their learning with their peers.



Every step, **together**



How to foster a positive home learning environment



Create an inviting and engaging learning space

- Spaces should be clean, clutter free and conducive to learning. If using dining tables, tidy away learning materials for meals to signal the end of sessions.
- Ensure a routine is in place and children have access to a timetable so they know when each subject starts and finishes.
- Screens provide learning opportunities but need to be supervised as appropriate and not used when studying.
- Model learning behaviour – you are your child’s greatest inspiration, if they see you reading even for 15 minutes a day they are more likely to read.
- Children need regular breaks – younger children aged 5 – 6 years can usually concentrate for 15 minutes and this increases with the age and maturity of the child, based on their executive functioning skills.

In the next piece we will focus on tips for reading with children.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact AKEB by emailing akeb@iuk.org.

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