

A decorative border of colorful building blocks (red, blue, yellow, green) is arranged in a staircase pattern along the left and right edges of the slide.

Investing in Parents  
YCDI Education

**SESSION 6.**  
**BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILDREN'S**  
**EDUCATION –**  
**PART B: MANAGE HOMEWORK**

Relieving Deputy Principal  
Ms Prothero

# Welcome

**I would like to begin our meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wattamattagal people of the Darug Nation.**

**We thank you for letting us share the land, the waterways and the skies where we learn and play.**

**We would also like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.**

# Homework Feedback



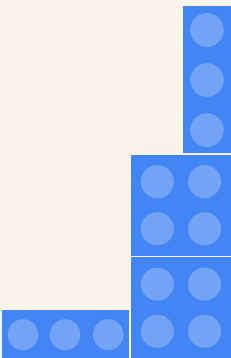
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# What you will Learn in the Session

- 1. Participants will learn about the positive benefits of homework on children's achievement.**
- 2. Participants will learn the two main functions of homework: academic skills development and personal development.**
- 3. Participants will become aware of the specific responsibilities of children with regard to homework and be able to communicate these responsibilities to their children at home.**
- 4. Participants will become aware of the specific responsibilities of parents with regard to homework and take steps at home to implement them.**
- 5. Parents will learn the various steps involved in a Structured Approach to homework and, where appropriate for their child, implement them at home.**
- 6. Parents will learn the Self Responsibility Approach to homework and its management and, where appropriate for their child, implement it at home**



# Homework: Benefits

1. The time spent on homework positively influences the achievement of students.
  2. Children who do homework out perform those who do not.
  3. The positive effects of homework exist both for highly able and average ability students.
  4. Spending time doing homework is one of the few behaviours parents can influence in their children.
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# Discussion

- What are your memories of homework
- Is there such a thing as *'good'* homework and *'bad'* homework? If so, elaborate.
- What positive benefits of homework have you observed in your child?
- What rules have you communicated to your children about homework?
- What information has your school provided concerning its homework policy and expectations of parents?
- How much tension is there around your house concerning homework?

# EHPS Homework Policy



EASTWOOD HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL  
HOMEWORK POLICY



## 1. Policy statement

- 1.1 Homework at Eastwood Heights Public School is optional, to provide the flexibility necessary to meet variable community expectations. Parents/carers that wish to opt out of homework for their children can do so with a signed note to that effect addressed to the classroom teacher.
- 1.2 Homework will be age-appropriate, manageable, and evidence-based in its educational emphasis at each stage of schooling. It will provide a mechanism for school-home communication on the focus of children's learning at school and their current progress.
- 1.3 An overview of the homework expectations and emphases for each stage of schooling is outlined below:
  - K-2: Reading (including home readers and sight words), practising sounds/spelling (5-10 mins nightly max.)
  - Years 3-6: A more structured approach to each night's homework, aligned to current classwork across the key learning areas. Homework will particularly target practice in mathematics, spelling, writing, and reading. Children may also be provided with an opportunity to complete work commenced in class. (Years 3-4: 10-20 mins nightly max.; Years 5-6: 15-30 mins nightly max.)
- 1.4 At all stages of schooling, every opportunity will be made to provide flexible completion periods where appropriate (e.g. due fortnightly). Homework may sometimes be designed to provide students with further opportunity to progress specific open-ended activities such as project work, research tasks, and presentation preparation, beyond the mandatory time allocated in class.

## 2. Context

- 2.1 Community expectations about homework are variable.
- 2.2 There is general community consensus that homework should be optional.
- 2.3 Research is inconclusive in relation to the impact of homework on students' academic achievement in primary school. However, the positive impact of regular reading and other literacy-based activities at home is widely accepted.
- 2.4 Homework may help primary school students to develop effective study habits, including in planning and organising their time, concentration and self-discipline. These skills are particularly important in facilitating effective transition to secondary school.
- 2.5 Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:
  - appropriate for each student's age and ability
  - purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
  - built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
  - clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
  - varied and challenging, but achievable
  - supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.
- 2.6 Research indicates that the quantity of homework needs to be manageable. Homework that is manageable for students will:
  - be age appropriate
  - consider students' outside of school hours commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition and home responsibilities
  - take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
  - be clearly communicated to students
  - provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances.

***An attachment in Enews notification***

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## Characteristics of appropriate homework. It is:

1. graded or commented on
2. positive in its content
3. followed by either reinforcement or penalties after completion
4. returned to children as soon as possible
5. consistent with the material taught in the lesson that day
6. designed to accommodate children's interests, background, and ability level
7. meaningful and relevant
8. reviewed by parents

***When homework is appropriate according to the above guidelines, it has greatest benefit to children's achievement***

# Difficulties of Homework

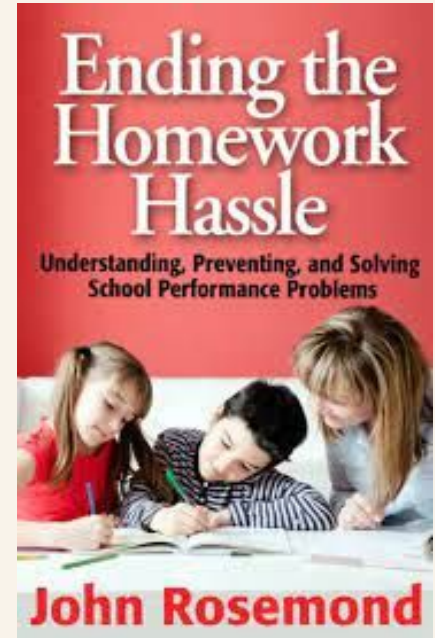
Discuss any current concerns or problems that you have concerning your child/ children's homework efforts, or lack of.

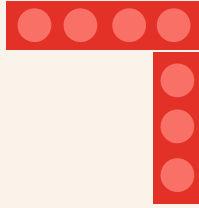
There are a variety of different problems and from very early in a child's school career, homework can become a major stress at home. Problems related to homework can be summed up in the often asked parental question: Have you done your homework?

# Difficulties of Homework

John Rosemond, in his book *'Ending the Homework Hassle'*, illustrates how tough it is to get children to do homework by describing a variety of games that parents and children play at homework time.

1. The *'Great Homework Hunt'* has mother going to great lengths trying to figure out just what Billy is supposed to be doing for homework.
2. In the *'Parenting by Helicopter'* game, mother supervises Billy doing homework in the kitchen, hovering over him the whole time, encouraging and bribing him to do things he already does well.
3. *'The Homework Marathon'* is played out over an entire evening during which a 20 minute homework assignment takes 3 hours.
4. Finally, Billy and his family play *'We're a Bunch of Bananas'*. After hours of trying to entice Billy to do his work, mother has a meltdown, Billy starts screaming, and Dad enters the picture and is furious. Billy's mother jumps to Billy's rescue, leading Dad to *'go bananas'*. The rest of the night is ruined for everyone.





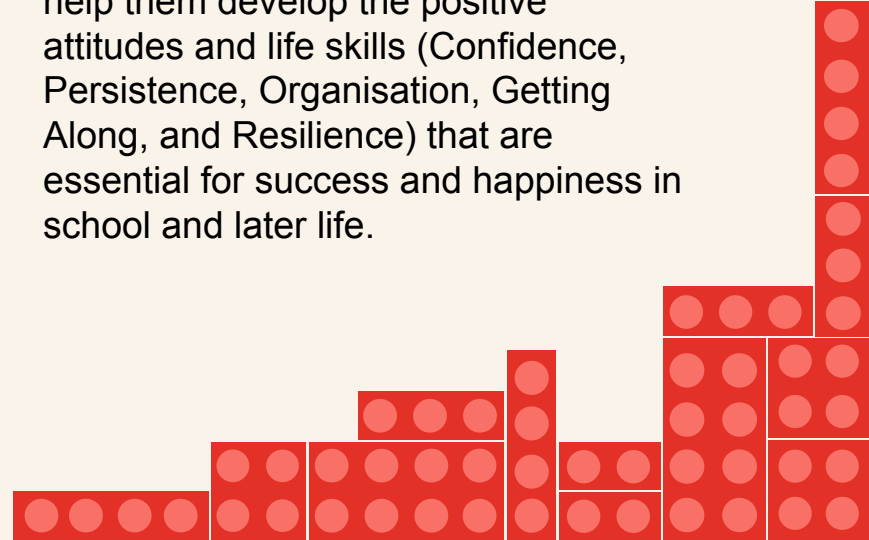
Homework assigned for non school hours is designed to:

- a. provide children with extra practise in what was taught in class that day.
- b. b. prepare children with the groundwork for future class work.
- c. c. provide children with extension (application of skills and ideas to a new task), and creative work assignments (original use of previously learned skills).



# The Purpose of Homework

Homework provides children with personal development experiences that help them develop the positive attitudes and life skills (Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along, and Resilience) that are essential for success and happiness in school and later life.

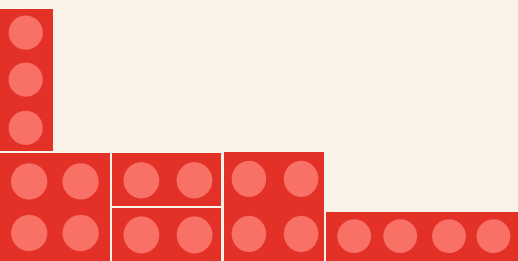


# Difficulties of Homework



**Share some of the stressful homework games you play with your children.**

Managing homework can get out of hand for anyone, and that we could all use a bit of advice on how to manage it more effectively.





## The two main purposes of homework are academic and personal development.

**Academic development:** homework extends the amount of available academic learning time. Many children need to review the material they learned in class several times before it sinks in. Often, there is not enough time in school for the necessary review, and homework provides invaluable engaged learning time for many children. It also allows teachers to personalise assignments, providing students with work that addresses individual needs, a task that often cannot be done in a large classroom setting. For gifted and creative children, homework offers the opportunity to extend the knowledge they may have quickly absorbed in class.

**Personal development:** homework holds the potential for moulding character and developing the child as a person. This is true in part because homework may be the first type of work children must do for someone other than their parents. More specifically, homework serves to build character. When children have to fulfil certain obligations for doing homework, the effort they put in over the years leads to the development of confidence, persistence, organisation, getting along, and emotional resilience.

# HOMWORK Responsibilities

## Homework Responsibilities of Students



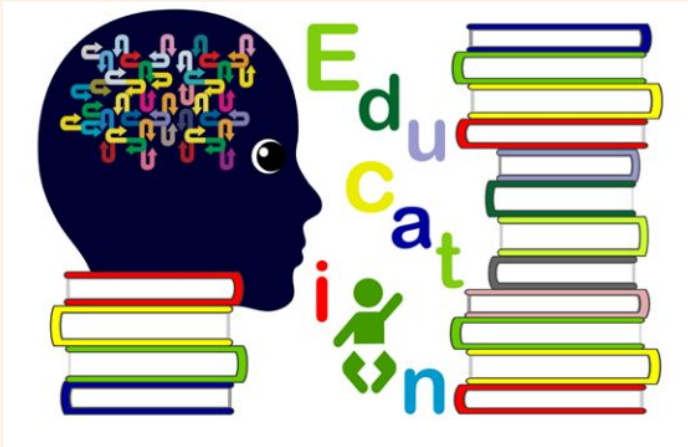
1. Homework is to be completed by the student as best he or she can.
2. Homework is to be submitted on time.
3. Homework is to be completed independently by the student. Parents and friends may discuss homework with the student, but may not do it.
4. When problems arise, the student should communicate with his or her teacher(s) and parent(s).

## Homework Responsibilities of Parents



1. Communicate to your children the purpose and value of doing homework.
2. Show interest, enthusiasm and support when your children have homework to do.
3. Provide a suitable study area free from noise and distractions.
4. Communicate a high, realistic level of expectations for the standard of homework. Do not expect too much or too little.
5. Communicate the importance of children's effort in completing and being successful at doing difficult homework.
6. Ensure that children know ahead of time when homework should be started each night and how much time they should spend on homework.
7. Make sure homework is supervised by someone to ensure it is done and to avoid cheating.
8. Praise children's efforts at doing difficult or boring homework.
9. Encourage children's desire to master material, to persist at homework, to be curious about learning, and to derive pleasure from homework.
10. Communicate with someone at school if children experience problems doing homework.

# Parental Guidelines for Helping a Child with Homework



1. Help develop the habit of your children doing homework in a proper study area.
2. Encourage your children to do homework as best they can.
3. Instil the value that homework must be completed on time.
4. Make sure your children understand that homework is their responsibility to complete independently of you and friends. Only provide help on request.
5. Show interest in what your children are learning.
6. When a child fails to complete homework at a satisfactory level, communicate your expectations assertively and, if necessary, use appropriate penalties (e.g. not being allowed favourite activities until after homework is satisfactorily completed).
7. Praise your children's efforts at doing difficult or boring homework.



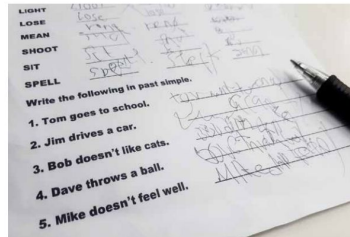
# Motivating Your Child to Do Homework: the Structured Approach vs The Self Responsibility Approach

## The Structured Approach to Homework



1. Provide a suitable study area for your children.
2. Help your children manage time.
3. Do not accept poor work.
4. Remind your children that homework is their responsibility, not yours.
5. Firmly communicate expectations.
6. Praise effort.
7. Use positive incentives.
8. Don't be afraid to use penalties.
9. Draw up a behaviour contract.
10. Communicate with the school.

### Do not Accept Poor Work



## Use Positive Incentives to Get your Child Going



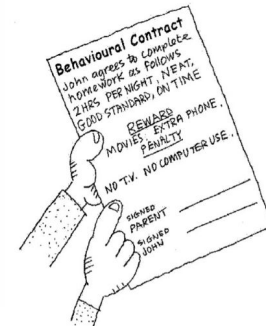
## Communicate with the School



## Don't be Afraid to use Penalties



## Draw up a Behavioural Contract

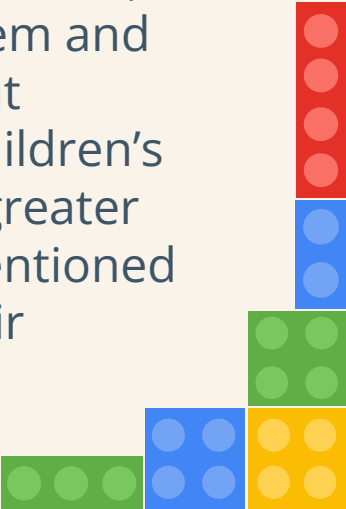




# The Self Responsibility Approach

**The Self Responsibility Approach** to homework management by indicating that some educationalists assert that today's parents are often far too involved with their children's schoolwork.

Well meaning parents can believe it is their responsibility to make sure that everything turns out okay for their children. Some argue that parents have been saturated with professional and web-based parenting advice, encouraging them to focus on improving their children's self esteem and how to be an *'expert'* parent. The consequence of this advice is that parents have assumed huge amounts of responsibility for their children's social, recreational, and academic life. As parents have assumed greater responsibility, children have begun to assume less. Some well intentioned parents have taken on too much responsibility for seeing that their children do homework and do it well.



# Parent Reflection Form: Getting Homework Right

INVESTING IN PARENTS  
SESSION 6. BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

## Parent Reflection Form: Getting Homework Right

1. In your own words, what is the purpose of homework and what is its value?  
How would you communicate these ideas to your child?

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2. Does your child's school communicate enough with you about homework?  
 Yes  No

What are some things you would like to know more about?  
Contact the school for answers.

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3. How would you describe your homework management methods? Do you use a  
Structured Approach, a Self Responsibility Approach, or a combination?

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4. What are some ways you can improve your homework management?

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- A. Try to implement different skills or introduce a new management style with their children.
- B. Closely monitor your behaviour and note the impact on your children, recording significant details in their journal.

***An attachment in Enews notification***

# Homework: Session Understandings



<https://forms.gle/7ro3qfqXj8aBQYfP7>



**Thank you for attending!**

**SESSION 6. BE INVOLVED IN  
YOUR CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION –  
PART C: TUTOR YOUR CHILD**

**Tuesday, September 20  
at  
7:00pm via Zoom**