

BCHS
with Crosshill

TOP
for Tips
Home
work

1. Make Time

Make time, even 5 minutes could help!

Your child will benefit from you getting involved in their homework tasks.

If your son/daughter knows that you care they will be more likely to want to do homework and hand it in on time.

You can encourage learning while you are out and about together, in the car, shopping, eating meals and even in your local community.

It's also a good idea to set a routine for homework (and stick to it) – like after tea. It helps to know what homework your child has and get a sense of how long it should take them.

There's always something happening that you can both talk and learn about!



2. Experience Counts

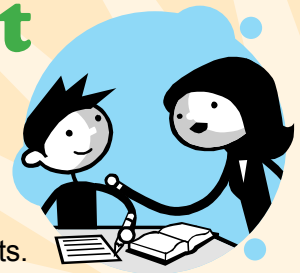
Try and link life and leisure experience to your child's school work e.g. visits to the park, museum or days out.

Remember your child will enjoy spending time with you alone. Learning together and sharing experiences will help your relationship grow stronger. Your child will enjoy learning about you and your experiences, as well as doing new things together.

3. Take an Interest

Let them know you want to be involved.

Make time to ask your child about what they are studying and what they have learned. Another great way to show you are interested is to attend school activities such as parents' evenings and sport events.



There are lots of ways you can help your child with their homework, especially if they get stuck. Have a chat about what they did last time it happened and what you could do to help, or where you could both look for help.

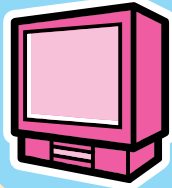
4. Lend a Hand

Let them know you're there to help.

Help your child to use resources that are available to them such as the local library, the Internet or books. Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations and make sure – that if they need help they know they can ask you to give them a hand.

5. Watch the Telly

Use TV programmes as prompts for discussion and learning, e.g. popular soaps and soap characters' lives could provide topics for discussion.



Make sure TV time is a set time and that it does not get in the way of study time. Make TV a treat for progress rather than a background feature.

6. Remove Distractions

Help your child concentrate by creating the best learning environment, e.g. take the dog out of the room or turn the volume down on the TV.

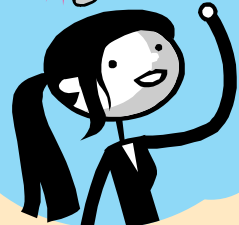
Provide an area that is light and fairly quiet. It doesn't have to be fancy – the kitchen table, a space in their bedroom or a corner of the living room will be fine, as long as homework is given priority and they are not interrupted.

7. Have a Look

Check to see how your child is getting on with their homework.

By seeing their progress you will find out if they need any more help or encouragement.

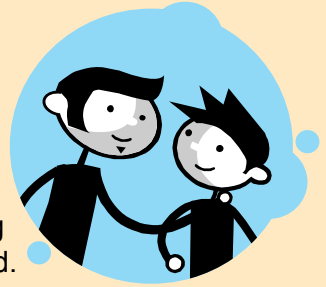
When they've finished, have a look and see how well they've done with their work.



8. Give Praise

Let them know they're doing a good job!

Let your child know that you are pleased with their progress. Help them to make activities and learning tasks feel more achievable by showing them just how much they have already achieved.



Remember – you can show them how not giving up and hard work can lead to success.

9. Go to School!

Talk with your child's teachers – they will be pleased that you want to get involved.

Let them know that you are keen to help your child with their study and that you want to get involved in their learning experiences.

You could ask them questions about:

- How your child is doing at school
- What they might be struggling with
- How you can help your child
- What your child's behaviour is like at school

10. Reward Progress

Set goals and provide treats for achievements.

Let your child know that you are there to encourage and support them to learn. Let them know that they are making good progress and that you are pleased with their efforts. Help them to try new experiences and get the most out of their time at school.



You Are Not Alone

Supporting your child to do homework might sometimes feel confusing and hard.

Don't worry, there are lots of resources, websites and helplines that you can use to make the task easier. Here are just a few:

- www.bbc.co.uk/learning
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools
- www.channel4learning.com
- www.dads-space.com
- www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum
- www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning
- www.direct.gov.uk/kids
- www.fostering.org.uk
- www.netmums.com
- www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/At-Home
- www.parentchannel.tv
- www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- www.qcda.gov.uk
- www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk
- www.connexions-direct.com
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Parents.aspx

This is by no means an exhaustive list and has been produced to offer a flavour of the types of websites available.

Try These Ideas

Have agreed set times for playing games, watching TV and leisure

- Set a time for homework at the same time each day
- When your child has finished their homework, agree time to play
- Set play time as a reward

Let your child know how you expect them to behave and set clear boundaries

- Set rules for when homework takes place, how long it will take and when you will check it
- Ask them if there is anything they are worried or upset about

Provide structure

- Set daily routines for homework, going out, bedtime and meals, so that your child will know when they have time for themselves
- If your child doesn't have homework, encourage them to read or give them a problem to solve so they stay in the homework routine

Your child is more likely to succeed when you, your family and your child's teachers expect them to do their very best

- Remind them how important learning is. Ask them what job they want to do when they get older
- Tell them that they make you feel proud

Work with your child's teachers, school and other family members to agree expectations for learning, studying and behaviour

- Ask them what homework they have and ask to see it when done
- Agree a time when they can do the things they want to do

Make sure that your expectations and goals are right for your child's age and maturity

- If your child gets stuck with homework give them suggestions for problem solving
- Talk to your child's teachers about how much homework your child is expected to do

What happens at School?

Making Contact

It is important to have good relationships with your child's teachers

The best way to build a relationship is to start by making contact with them and introducing yourself.

Having a friendly relationship can benefit your child at home and at school. Parents/carers can help identify certain behaviours that are happening at school but not at home and vice versa. They can also help teachers identify children's strengths, weaknesses and personality, which can help the teacher deliver their teaching to best suit the child's needs.

Build a relationship with your child's teachers

- Let the teacher know your child's likes, dislikes and strengths
- Tell the teacher of any special help your child may need
- Write a note to school and attach it to their homework book to tell the teacher if your child enjoyed it or found it difficult
- Ask the teacher how you can best help your child at home with their learning
- Contact the teacher if you think your child is having problems at school
- Go to parent-teacher evenings and other school events
- Let the school know about any changes in your home life which may make a difference to your child's learning. This information will be treated confidentially
- Let the teacher know when you can see that your child is doing well. You can write to them, send a note or email if you want to

The National Curriculum

The word 'curriculum' refers to the subjects your child will study at school

The **National Curriculum** was developed to make sure all pupils have a balanced education. It contains all of the subjects to be covered and details what topics should be taught in schools. It also shows the standards or levels expected by pupils at age 7, 11 and 14.

All pupils aged 5–16 studying in state schools must follow the National Curriculum. It currently consists of the following:

- **Three core subjects** – English, Mathematics and Science
- **Nine foundation subjects** – Design and Technology (DT), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education (PE), Modern Foreign Languages (Key Stage 3 only) and Citizenship (Key Stages 3 and 4 only)
- **Religious Education (RE)**, taught according to each local syllabus. You may choose to withdraw your children from these sessions

Key Stages

The National Curriculum divides subjects that are taught into age groups called **Key Stages**

At every Key Stage pupils will study subjects in the National Curriculum. The Key Stages are as follows:

Key Stage 3

Ages: 11 to 14 years

Year Groups: **Year 7 to Year 9**

Key Stage 4

Ages: 14 to 16 years

Year Groups: **Year 10 to Year 11**

To find out more about the National Curriculum, visit www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum

Attainment Levels

At the end of each Key Stage, children are expected to reach certain levels of knowledge, skills and understanding in each subject

These are called the **Attainment Levels** and they are numbered 1–8. Your child's teachers will be checking that your child is able to reach the Attainment Levels that are expected of them at each Key Stage in their learning.

The expected Attainment Level for children at the end of each Key Stage is as follows:

Key Stage 3

Most children are expected to work between levels **3 to 7**. By the end of year 9 children are expected to be working to at least **level 5 or 6** (at age 14).

If children are working a long way above or below the expected level, the school must provide extra support. Your child's teachers will be able to let you know how your child is doing and will be able to offer support and advice around any questions or worries that you may have.

Talk to your child about where they think they are in their Key Stage attainment. See what their teacher has suggested for the next step.

The reports you get from the school will show the level your child is currently achieving and what their target level is.

Helping your child get the best out of BCHS with Crosshill

We all want the best for our children but as they grow older it can get more difficult as their learning changes and they want to be more independent.

We can help you find new ways to coach your child, whether you are a parent, carer or other family member. It is not about telling them what to do, or doing it for them, it is about helping them find ways to help themselves.

Helping your child with their studies

You can coach and motivate your child to help them get the best out of their time at school and college. Your own experiences are valuable. By sharing them with your child you can help them tackle challenges in different ways.

Parents and carers who work together with their children can help them focus on their future goals, stay positive and keep on track to make the most of their future.

You have the skills to make a difference to your child's future

We will help you find ways to coach your child by giving you:

- Tips and advice
- Suggestions for 'conversation starters'
- Ideas on ways you can draw on your own experience
- Information about where you can find out more
- Most importantly, the confidence to get involved and work as a team!

Ways to help your child with their learning:

- Conversations
- Questions
- Listening
- Ideas
- Understanding

Your involvement is key

Learning is the route to success for the future. It's worth investing in.

Imagine how your child might feel and what they might achieve if you regularly helped them. Together you can work out how to approach their studies and the important choices they make at school or college.

Conversation Starters

"I'd like to know more about your school project, what have you been asked to do?"

"Parents' evening is coming up. What could I ask your teachers about to help with your studies?"

Top Tips

- Children need support on their own terms – be open to their ideas and how they want you to help them
- Look for opportunities to open up discussions on issues or subjects
- Ask your child what they are studying and what they find hard – try to work out together how you can help
- Talk to your child about information their school or college may have provided
- You can talk to staff directly but make sure you think about how your child will feel about this

You don't need to understand every subject to be able to help

By talking to your child about the subjects they are studying you will be able to get a better understanding and be able to help them out.

Recognise and talk about where you're both making progress and build on it.

Conversation Starters

“Have you got much homework tonight? Tell me about it. Let's see if there's anything I might be able to help you with.”

“You did really well with that project/homework/test recently – let's have a look at what's coming up and have a think about what we can work on together next.”

Top Tips

- It may seem difficult at first, but breaking down what needs to be done into small chunks will make it easier for both of you
- Visit www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum to find out more about qualifications, exams and the subjects your child is studying
- Phone or email the school or college for information on the subjects you would like to know about
- Go to parents' evenings and ask what you can do to help with homework and revision
- Your school or college may have other resources available for you to use, or you can get them from their website

You can always help!

As a parent you already have lots of experience and you know your child better than anyone else.

Tell your child about your learning experiences and how you made decisions about your education and work.

Be open and share information.

Conversation Starters

“That looks interesting, what are you doing?”

“You look like you might be a bit stuck; let’s see if we can sort this out together.”

“What’s new or different about this project? Tell me about how you’re going to tackle that.”

Top Tips

- Always encourage your child not to give up. Remind them about what they’ve already achieved
- Share tips about how you go about learning something new
- Tell your child about what helped you make choices about your educational and work

Even if you can spare a few minutes it can make a big difference

Investing the time to help your child will pay off! They are more likely to succeed in their school work and exams with your help.

Regularly taking an interest and having quick chats may work better than trying to do too much in one go.

Conversation Starters

“I know you’ve got exams coming up. Should we sit down and look at what you’ve got to do and try to come up with a bit of a plan?”

“Why don’t we talk about your new project on the way into town?”

Top Tips

- Make time to talk about homework with your child. It will help them to see you as a source of strength and encouragement
- Encourage your child to find a regular time to study and make sure that they don’t feel like they’re missing out on other family activities
- Make time at the weekend to help with longer study projects
- Little and often works best

Encouraging learning at home can help your child feel good about their education

Being there for them when they are doing their homework will help them stay motivated.

You can also encourage them to find their own answers to problems. Remember to tell your child how proud you are of them.

Conversation Starters

“OK, I know you want to go out and that’s fine, but let’s agree when you are going to do your homework first.”

“You will be deciding your subject/career choices soon, have you started to think about which ones you want to do? Tell me more about them.”

“I think you’re doing really well at school and I’m really proud of you. Let’s do something nice together; what would you like to do...?”

Top Tips

- Be positive, even if they get it wrong. Tell them about when you made mistakes and help them to find a way forward
- Share your experiences of school or college with your child
- Ask them about what they enjoy about learning
- Remember to tell your child about how well they are doing
- Your child will always need your support. Listening to them is more important than knowing all the answers

TOP for Tips Home work

BCHS with Crosshill has other resources available for you to use, or you could get them from our website.

For copies of this document or other resources please visit:

www.BCHS.co.uk