

Advice on setting up Home Learning Routines

Tasks are easiest to accomplish when tied to specific routines. By establishing daily routines for Home Learning completion, you will not only make Home Learning go more smoothly, but you will also be fostering a sense of order students can apply to later life, including college and work.

Step 1. Find a location in the home where Home Learning will be done. The right location will depend on students and the culture of your family. Some children do best at a desk in their bedroom. It is a quiet location, away from family noise. Other children become too distracted by the things they keep in their bedroom and do better at a place removed from those distractions, like living room or kitchen area. Some children need to work by themselves. Others need to have parents nearby to help keep them on task and to answer questions when problems arise. Ask students where the best place is to work. Alternatively you can complete Home Learning at a public library or at school where there are spaces and facilities before and after school.

Step 2. Establish a Home Learning time. Students should get in the habit of doing Home Learning at the same time every day. The time may vary depending on the individual child. Some children need a break right after school to get some exercise and have a snack. Others need to start Home Learning while they are still in a school mode (i.e: right after school when there is still some momentum left from getting through the day). In general, it may be best to get Home Learning done either before dinner or as early in the evening as possible. The later it gets, the more tired the child becomes and the more slowly the Home Learning gets done.

Step 3. Establish a daily Home Learning schedule. The Home Learning session should begin with you sitting down with students and drawing up a Home Learning schedule. You should review the set Home Learning to make sure students understands them and has all the necessary log-ins and sheets. Ask students to estimate how long it will take to complete each assignment. Then ask when each assignment will get started. If students need help with any assignment, then this should be determined at the beginning so that the start times can take into account parent availability.

Step 4 Seek advice if you need it; not all students feel motivated to complete Home Learning and complete it well; you can contact the form tutor for more Home Learning advice and look on the following sites for forums and general tips and hints:

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/secondary_support/

www.kidshealth.org

www.mumsnet.com