
Frequently Asked Questions / Parental concerns about Learning at Home

These frequently asked questions are intended to help address parental concerns about learning at home during COVID-19 and to provide top tips on how you can support your child's learning.

Questions are divided into different sections for easy access.

These questions will continue to be reviewed and updated as required. Further information is available on the learning at home pages of the Parentzone Scotland [website](#) and Parent Club [website](#).

Should my child be spending all day on screen based learning?

Early learning and childcare settings and schools are likely to take different approaches to meet the individual needs of their learners.

Online learning will be one aspect however Learning at Home can consist of one or more of the following:

- play and physical activity;
- general everyday family activities;
- worksheets;
- activities suggested by the teacher eg make something from recycled materials;
- food preparation and cooking;

- curriculum related activities;
- talking to other family members;
- reading and sharing books; and
- learning outdoors, for example, pavement games, nature walks.



I only have one internet device

Not all learning at home activities will require the use of an internet device.



Your child's school will provide learners with sufficient time to complete any online work.

Prioritise urgent internet based activities.

Work out a schedule as a family and decide who can use the device at what time.

It's good to teach your child to take turns.

Remember to stay safe [online](#).

My child's learning will be affected if I do not have access to the internet

If your child's learning at home requires the use of a computer, internet device and/or the internet, you should speak to your child's school in the first instance if you do not have these at home.

Remember learning can take place during family activities. Cooking with your child can include aspects of literacy when reading things like recipes and ingredients and numeracy when measuring ingredients.

Sorting the washing can also provide opportunities to count when pairing up the clothes.

Have a conversation with your child about what they have learned today!



My child is worried and anxious about COVID-19, what can I do?

It is natural for your child to feel anxious and worried at this time.

Speak to them about what concerns they have or what is worrying them.

Children benefit from clear, honest information.

Talk with your child and help them to name their emotions. You can then explore with them safe ways to express these feelings.

Find new ways to connect with and keep in contact with friends and family.

Further information to support your child's mental health during COVID-19 can be found on [Parentzone Scotland](#) website.



Am I required to be my child's teacher at home?

Parents are not expected to be teachers. Engaging in your child's learning can make a real difference. Children attain and achieve more when their parents are involved in their learning. Younger children may need to be supervised while undertaking learning at home.



Tips to help you:

- Encourage your child to ask their teacher and/or their peers for help if they do not understand their activities.
- Allow your child to attempt activities on their own where possible and safe to do so.
- Read for fun with and to your child.
- Keep the momentum of learning going!
- Speak with your child's early learning and childcare setting or school if you are struggling to engage them in their learning.
- Recognise and reward effort and achievements!
- There is [information](#) available to help you support your child's learning at home.

Who can I contact as my school building is closed?

Most school buildings will remain closed until 11 August 2020. However, some school buildings will be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children who are encouraged to attend where it is appropriate for them to do so.

If you fall within the critical categories and your school building is closed, then please contact your local authority, who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

School staff are still working and available to help. If you are unable to contact your school directly, phone your local authority for further information.



How will I know if my child is making progress?

Teachers will use a variety of ways to assess your child's progress and to provide parents with feedback.

You can continue to support your child's learning at home by:

- using the teacher's feedback or comments to learn about your child's strengths and areas to focus on;
- praising your child for their efforts and sharing ideas and suggestions on how they can improve on the areas highlighted by the teacher; and
- encouraging your child to ask for help from their teacher or peers if needed.



Will my child be able to catch up if they fall behind?



Once children and young people start to return to school, their teacher will spend time helping them to settle into the new routines.

Teachers will work out where your child or young person is in their learning and build from there.

Teachers understand that families will have encountered a range of challenges during COVID-19.

If you have any concerns contact your child's early learning and childcare setting or school.

My child lacks motivation, what can I do as a parent?

Reassure your child that you understand that it is hard just now for them.

Try to re-engage your child in their learning using things that are of specific interest to them. This will help to form a basis for starting to re-engage and motivate them.

Involve your child in planning their learning at home.

