



# Learning at Home: Tips For Middlethorpe Parents

## Create a designated learning space

Choose a space for your children to work that is free from distractions like their seat in the classroom would be. Keep your children's learning materials organised and in one space like their materials in school would be in their tray. When your children have completed their learning for the day they can pack up and tidy away their things just like they would in school.

## Follow a daily schedule

Children thrive when they have structure and routine. Create and follow a daily schedule. You can always adapt, but a schedule will give you focus and direction each day.

Begin the day by reading through the Daily Instructional PDF on class dojo to outline the activities they will be doing. Create a schedule for the day so the children can see what they will be working on throughout the day and how long each activity should take them to complete, including when their live lesson is.

The day needs to have a clear start and a clear end; so maybe start each day with something similar and end the day in the same way; this will aid the structure of the 'learning' day, allowing children to switch on and switch off from 'school'.

Timetable breaks into their day just like if they were in school. Remember breaks are important, and children should be encouraged to play games and do what they want during this time. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, or able to take the children out for daily exercise, think about their physical development; maybe running, cycling etc (P.E.). Remember your children are used to running around with friends in their break times at school.

Towards the end of the day, try to spend some time reflecting and talking about what has been learnt. This will provide your children with an opportunity to realise that they have learnt something, and will build their confidence and motivation as you go along each day.

Pick a system that works for you. Your schedule can be as detailed or as relaxed as your children need. The key is having some set routine and structure for you and your children to follow so you can both stay on track.

## Set learning goals together

Goals are an important part of education. When you have a vision and a plan for where you want to go, you are more likely to achieve those learning outcomes and properly align your day-to-day curriculum.

Use the Daily Instructional PDF and the previous day's feedback from your children's teachers to outline some key learning objectives for your children. E.g. To beat yesterday's score on their Quick Maths; to remember to use punctuation in their typing. Provide praise for their efforts in reaching these goals.

## Make learning a family activity

Show an interest in your children's work, this will inspire your children to work harder. Let your children teach and explain their work to you. This stops the learning process from becoming boring and helps keep them interested in studies. Not only will they get a sense of achievement, but will also help them retain information without learning in a 'traditional' manner. If you have older siblings, then get them involved in supporting their younger brothers and sisters, this will help all involved develop their understanding and knowledge.

## Be kind on yourself

It's really important that both parents and children try to cut each other a little bit of slack at the moment. We all have bad days. Children don't always get everything right first time. Our curriculum is designed to challenge and teach new concepts. If you are unsure of our expectations just contact your children's class teachers. Remember you aren't in this alone, we are here to support you. If you can, connect with other parents of children learning at home so you don't feel isolated.