

For Parents/Carers

Working Together!

Aged 5+



As a parent/carer, you have the skills needed to support and encourage your child to learn, achieve and get the best out of their school experience.

Online as part of this pack you will find:

- ★ a **chatterbox** to make – full of activities!
- ★ a **card game** with ideas and questions to ask your children about school and what they are learning
- ★ a **bookmark** for your child to colour in and keep
- ★ a handy **wallchart** and stickers to help you record and reward your child's learning progress month by month

Top Tips

- ★ Check for information about your child's progress in your child's homework diary or exercise book
- ★ Encourage your child to give it a go even if it seems difficult
- ★ Provide a comfortable space to talk and work
- ★ Do exercises in little steps – a bit at a time
- ★ Ask other family members to help and encourage your child to learn
- ★ Make learning fun, play games and laugh at your mistakes!
- ★ Show you are interested and ask questions

★ Celebrating Achievement ★

It's always a good idea to reward your child's progress (e.g. getting their homework done on time), and it doesn't have to cost lots of money! You could...

- ★ let your child pick what film you're going to watch as a family
- ★ let them play their favourite game
- ★ make special time to have fun together

Useful Websites

For more advice and information visit:

- ★ 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

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

Your school may have other resources available for you to use, or you could get them from their website. (DCSF cannot be held responsible for any existing or future content on any of the above websites.)

★ **You can also get information from your local library or why not talk to other parents, friends and family about helping your child with their learning.**

To print off copies of this document and other resources please visit:
www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport



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Let's Talk About School Today...



Questions you can use to talk to your children about school and their learning

What's this about?

These cards are to help you talk to your children about school and their learning. So ask your child to pick a card, read out the question and get talking!

Card Instructions: Print these cards out on your printer, cut them out (you will have 24 cards) and then get talking!

What was most fun at school today?

What made you laugh today?

What is your favourite thing to do at home?

Tell me something about your favourite animal

Cut along dotted line



What's your favourite thing about school?

Is there anything you don't understand at school? What is it?

Have you helped someone recently? What did you do?

What games did you play today?

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

What's hard for you at school at the moment?

Describe something you've eaten today at school

Tell me about one thing you have done at school today that you feel proud of

What has made you sad recently?

If you had a wish, what would it be?

Talking Together



Why is talking important?

- Your child will enjoy sharing their ideas, thoughts and views with you
- It helps to bring any worries, fears or concerns your child may have out into the open

Asking the right questions



Why are they important?

- Ask questions that lead to conversations
- Avoid questions that lead to a 'yes' or 'no' answer
- Try to find out what school work is about so that you can ask questions that will help your child to solve problems themselves

Make up your own question

Make up your own question

What do you want to be when you are older?

What's easy for you at school at the moment?

Mum/Dad....
WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

Mum/Dad...
WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

1. What happened?

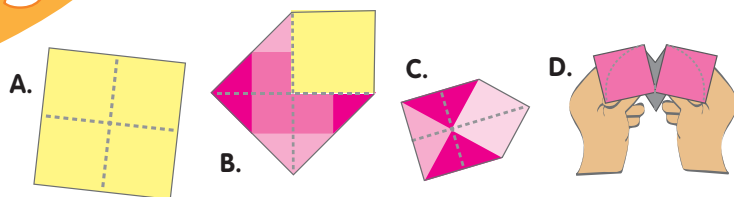
2. Who did you meet?

3. What did you talk about?

WILD CARD

WILD CARD

Doing and Learning



How To Make The Chatterbox

- Print off page Two and cut around the dotted line with some scissors. With the blank side facing up, fold Chatterbox in half and unfold. Fold in half the other way and unfold. The fold lines will create four equal squares.
- Fold the 4 corners into the centre to make a smaller square.
- Turn the Chatterbox over and fold the 4 corners of the smaller square into the centre to make a smaller square. There should now be 8 colours pointing to the middle of the Chatterbox.
- Put your thumbs and the first fingers of each hand in the 4 pockets underneath and bring all 4 corners to the middle. The Chatterbox should now look like a square cone with 4 moveable sides: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. You should now be able to move the sides and are ready to play!

How To Use The Chatterbox

Ask your child to pick a number between 1 and 8. Move fingers back and forward as you count out the chosen number. Open up the Chatterbox so that you can see the colours – ask your child to pick a colour from the 4 choices available.

Open the flap to ask your child the question underneath their chosen colour.

You could make your own Chatterbox together using new colours and questions.

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cut along dotted line & keep

Aged 5+

Doing and Learning

Why?
How?

department for children, schools and families

1 GREEN
What TV programme have you watched and enjoyed?...why?
Ask your own question.

2 YELLOW
Choose 2 things here at home and tell me a story about them.

3 ORANGE
What are you looking forward to doing at school this week?

4 YELLOW
What is your favourite song? Can you sing it?

5 YELLOW
What is your favourite subject at school?...why?

6 YELLOW
What is your favourite subject at school?

7 YELLOW
What are the names of your friends at school?

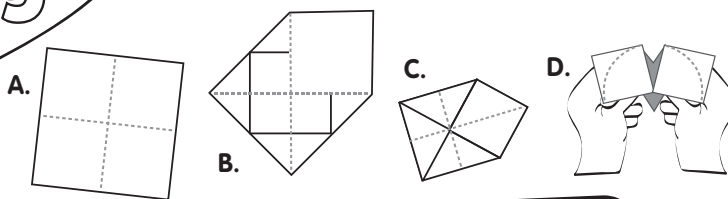
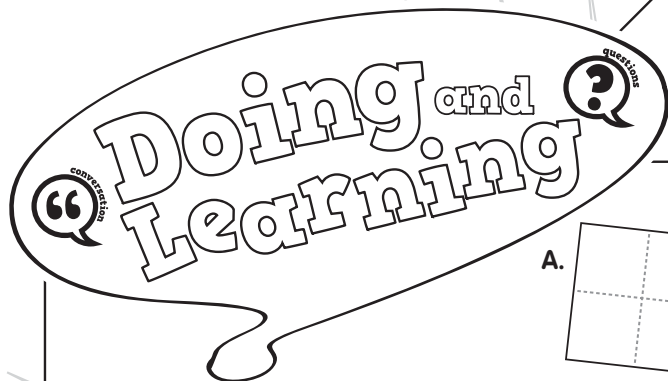
8 YELLOW
Draw a picture of something you have read about at school.

9 YELLOW
What is your favourite song? Can you sing it?

10 BLUE
What is your favourite subject at school?...why?

11 RED
What are the names of your friends at school?

12 PURPLE
What is your favourite subject at school?...why?



How To Make The Chatterbox

- A. Print off page Two and cut around the dotted line with some scissors. With the blank side facing up, fold Chatterbox in half and unfold. Fold in half the other way and unfold. The fold lines will create four equal squares.
- B. Fold the 4 corners into the centre to make a smaller square.
- C. Turn the Chatterbox over and fold the 4 corners of the smaller square into the centre to make a smaller square. There should now be 8 colours pointing to the middle of the Chatterbox.
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cut along dotted line & keep

The puzzle template is a large diamond shape composed of several triangular and square sections. The central section contains an illustration of a hand holding a pencil and a stack of papers, with speech bubbles saying "How?" and "Why?". Below the illustration is the text "department for children, schools and families".

Surrounding the center are sections for writing questions, each with a color label and a question-writing prompt:

- ORANGE** (top-left triangle): Write your own question here.
- GREEN** (top-right triangle): Write your own question here.
- PURPLE** (right triangle): Write your own question here.
- BROWN** (bottom-right triangle): Write your own question here.
- BLUE** (bottom triangle): Write your own question here.
- RED** (bottom-left triangle): Write your own question here.
- YELLOW** (left triangle): Write your own question here.
- PINK** (middle-left triangle): Write your own question here.

Other sections contain numbers and icons:

- Top-left square: numbers 4 and 3.
- Top-right square: numbers 2 and 1.
- Middle-left square: icon of an ear and the word "listen".
- Middle-right square: icon of a question mark and the word "question".
- Bottom-left square: numbers 5 and 6.
- Bottom-right square: numbers 8 and 7.

Additional text includes "Aged 5+", "Doing and Learning", and "department for children, schools and families".

Let's read together...bookmark

Let your child choose a book and set time aside to read together.

Reading together can be FUN!

My name is: _____

Can you think of a new ending for the story?

cut along dotted line & keep

Ask your child about the book they are reading to start conversations.

Ask questions about what's happened in the story or ask your child to imagine what might happen next to their favourite character.

Ask your child to tell you something about the book.



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Instructions to make your bookmark: fold the page in half and stick the blank reverse sides together

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Let's read together...bookmark

Ask your child to colour in this bookmark with their favourite colours

Let's read together... bookmark

What would your favourite character do next?

cut along dotted line & keep



Reading together lets your child know you are interested in what they are finding out.

Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



JANUARY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Remember to give praise



FEBRUARY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Set goals and give rewards



MARCH

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Listen and ask questions



Star Learner

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GOAL:



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Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



APRIL

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Find a quiet space for homework



MAY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Be positive about learning



JUNE

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Let them know they are doing well



Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



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Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...

JULY

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMWORK TIP

Remember to give praise



AUGUST

(LEARNING DURING THE HOLIDAYS)

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMWORK TIP

Set goals and give rewards



SEPTEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMWORK TIP

Listen and ask questions



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Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



OCTOBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Find a quiet space for homework



NOVEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Be positive about learning



DECEMBER

WEEK 1 - Achievement

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



WEEK 2 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 3 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 4 - Achievement

GOAL:



WEEK 5 - Achievement

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) _____

TREAT: _____

HOMEWORK TIP

Let them know they are doing well

