

How to support Home Learning

Follow this guidance to create a positive learning environment at home

Be realistic about what you can do

- **You're not expected to become teachers** and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household.
- **Experiment** in the first week, then **take stock**. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too.
- **Share the load if there are two parents at home**. Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work.
- **Take care of your own health and wellbeing**. This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle. Take a look at the links at the end of this factsheet for some advice on mental health and wellbeing.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- **Create and stick to a routine** if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- **Involve your children in setting the timetable** where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.
- **Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible**. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible.
- If you have more than one child at home, **consider combining their timetables**. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household.
- **Designate a working space if possible**, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- **Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.
- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends**, to separate school life and home life.

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

Maybe start each morning with exercise at 9am with Joe Wicks.

If you have a **garden, use it regularly**. If you don't, try to get out **once a day** as permitted by the government: households can be together outdoors but 2 metres apart from others.

Get your children to **write in a diary what they did each day** – this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended.

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

Where you have more freedom in the timetable, **make time for other activities**. Add some creative time or watch a dance video from [Go Noodle](#) to get the heart-rate going.

Get your children to **write postcards** to their grandparents or to pen pals.

Ask **grandparents to listen to your children read** on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children).

Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home.

Ask them to **help you cook** and bake.

Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits.

See guidance on supporting your mental health and that of your children:

› [Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#) – Mind.org

› [Supporting young people's mental health during this period](#) – Anna Freud Centre