

If our children are to learn as much as they can,

it's important for them to have the opportunity to talk about what they're learning.

Learn with Your Family is a project aimed at reinforcing the school-home partnership when it comes to children's learning at school. Your child's school is participating in the project for the 2017/18 academic year.



Learn with Your Family

All parents are hugely important when it comes to their children's learning.



Good advice on how parents can help their children learn more

Children find it easier to learn, understand and remember the things they're learning when they're allowed to talk about the things they're learning.



That's why it's important to talk to your children about the things they're learning at school.

Not: "What did you learn in school today"? You'll rarely get an answer to that question.

But talk to your children in a way that allows them to relate and explain what they're learning at school.



High yet realistic expectations

By showing your child that you have high yet realistic expectations of them, they'll realise that they're good at learning

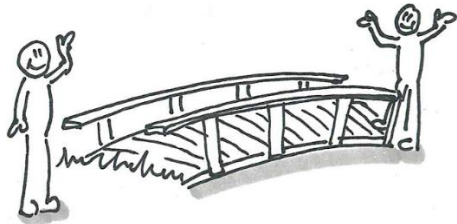
— and learn

more!



Building bridges between home and school

To be able to talk to your child about what's going on at school, you have to know what's going on at school. That's why we've planned:



3 ways of building bridges between home and school:

- **The family's learning environment.** Your child's teachers will talk to you about what your child is doing and learning at school and how best to support your child.
- **Family tasks.** These are little tasks relating to what your child is learning and are sent home with your child once or twice a month. This gives your family something very specific to talk to your child about.
- **Family exhibitions.** Once a year, pupils plan an exhibition where they involve their families in what they've learned and how they've learned it.

You can ask your child specific questions.



Specific questions challenge your child to explain what they're learning and put it into words.

Your child may include some of the words they've learned in lessons, like **personal characteristics** or **sorting waste**.

Open questions challenge your child to provide more of an explanation, e.g.:

- How can you tell they're different?
- What would happen if...?
- Tell me more about that
- That sounds fun, exciting, dangerous – tell me more...

Or...

- How did you explain to the other pupils how you worked that out?



That's why it's a good idea to use some of your family's shared experiences when chatting to your child.

For instance:

That sounds like fun. It's like when..... Can you remember when we were painting? We didn't buy enough paint.



Or:

We didn't use that method when I was in school. In those days we...

How did you come up with that heading? It reminds me of...

Experiences of children and their families

When children are able to link the things they're learning with something they already know, they find it easier to learn more.

