

Ideas for learning at home

Take an active interest in your child's English work. Your child will pick up on your enthusiasm.

Be positive and give praise for anything good your child can do. Children perform best when they are praised, and the more they are praised the more they will try their best when doing the same activity. Focusing on positive comments rather than negative ones builds up your child's self-esteem.

There is lots you can do as a parent to help your child with their English lessons. Some of the activities below can be done by parents who don't speak any English. They are marked with a *.

Getting the best from the coursebook

Learning Stars has characters that appear throughout the book in stories and in activities. Ask your child to introduce you to the characters. You can ask questions like, 'What's her/his name?' 'What colour is her dress?' / 'What colour are his eyes?'

* Look at the stories that your child has done in class. Ask your child to listen to the story from the CD-ROM and ask them to tell you about the story. Show interest in what your child tells you. You can point to the different objects shown on the story and ask your child to tell you how that object is called in English. Once your child has told you about the story, both of you can listen to the story again.

* Ask your child to teach you a song from the CD-ROM. This will give your child more confidence and they will also see that you value using English. With dialogues, ask your child to act these out with you.

* Lessons 3 in most units have images and their names. You can point to those images and ask your child to tell you their names. If your child doesn't remember, you can go to the CD-ROM and check the Picture Dictionary where they can hear the pronunciation of the word.

* Your child is slowly learning the alphabet. You can write one of the letters already seen in class and ask them to draw the objects they know that begin with that letter. You can ask your child to name what they have drawn. They can also colour their drawings and name the colour they used.

* Your child is learning how to use a pencil. You can encourage them to practise how to use a pencil by drawing a simple object that has an unfinished part. Ask them to finish the drawing and colour it. You can also ask them to tell you the name of that object. [You can use the Activity Book as a reference]

Ways to practise vocabulary

* Use the time when you are watching TV or are out and about in shops, restaurants, the supermarket and similar places with your child. Are there any objects that they can name in English, for example? Ask your child to tell you how to say the words.



When out and about you can practise asking, 'What are they?' or 'What is it?' questions by pointing to various things that your child would know in English e.g. flowers, ducks, cars, shops, cinema. You can also ask 'What colour is it/are they?'

Before they go to school you can take the opportunity to use English by asking if they have the things that they will need for the day e.g. coat, bag, lunchbox, pencils, crayons, books etc.

Your child is also learning numbers, which is a difficult concept for young children. You can help your child by taking the opportunity of practising the numbers by asking them to draw 'two books', or tell you how many balls/dolls they have. Always make sure to ask a question that can cover up to the number they have seen in class.